



# OUTDOORS STORE CREATES 80 JOBS

Report by Heather Large

**ULTIMATE** Outdoors will open a new store at Merry Hill next Saturday, creating around 80 jobs.

The firm, part of the JD Sports group, is taking over the old Kiddicare shop which has been empty since September last year.

Bosses have begun recruiting full and part-time workers for the store, which will welcome its first customers on May 23 as part of a special promotional weekend.

Positions available at the shop, which sells a range of outdoor clothing, equipment and accessories, include sales advisors, cycle technicians and cafe staff.

Work is under way to refurbish and fit out the premises ahead of the store's opening day.

Rob Pickersgill, marketing manager at Intu Merry Hill, has welcomed the new store and the jobs boost for the centre.

"We're very excited for the opening of Ultimate Outdoors, another great boost to the centre in what has been a very successful first year as Intu," he added.

Bosses at Ultimate Outdoors say they are planning a promotional weekend to mark the opening of the new store at the Brierley Hill complex, which will include special offers and a climbing wall in the car park.

## Improvements

Ultimate Outdoors also sells online and has a store in Preston. It is opening a branch in Nottingham too.

In 2014 the business was acquired by JD Sports Fashion plc and was re-launched in its new location in Preston.

The 41,000 sq ft Merry Hill site was one of five Kiddicare baby and nursery specialist stores bought by JD Sports last year.

Kiddicare closed its Merry Hill branch with the loss of 100 jobs along with nine other stores. It had opened in October 2012 in the former Best Buy premises.

But there have been new jobs created at Merry Hill since Kiddicare shut. Around 30 positions were available at the Simply Be and Jacamo shop.

Merry Hill owner Intu, which took over the shopping centre last spring, announced in February it was aiming to spend £20 million on improvements to the shopping centre over the next three years, expanding stores and introducing new restaurants.

It wants to reduce the number of smaller shops at the complex and use the space to enlarge its bigger stores, hoping to encourage existing tenants to take more space and to attract other big names to the centre.

Money is also being invested in the area around the shopping centre with Centro involves in schemes to improve transport and pedestrian and cycle routes.

## RUGBY CLUB HOSTS TOWN'S BLUES FESTIVAL



Getting ready for the Stourbridge Blues Festival are Ray Hartill, Keith McGrath, Steve Poole, Craig Macho and Ian Westwood

BLUES fans are in for a treat with the return of Stourbridge Blues Festival this weekend.

Black Country band 46th and Main will be among 12 acts taking part in the Stourbridge Blues Festival at Old Halesonians Rugby Club on Saturday, starting at noon.

Ian Westwood, the band's bass guitarist, said the group was looking forward to taking part in the festival.

He added: "The gigs we have done have gone really well and we are really looking forward to it."

The five-piece band consists of Steve Poole

on lead vocals and harmonica, Craig Macho on lead guitar, Keith McGrath on rhythm guitar, Mr Westwood on backing vocals and bass guitar and Ray Hartill on drums.

He said the group's influences included Freddie King, Fleetwood Mac and Nine Below Zero, though they will also be playing original songs.

The musical extravaganza will be raising money for Acorns Children's Hospice, a charity providing a network of care for children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

Other acts performing at the festival include the highly rated young singer-guitarist Sunjay Brayne, the Birmingham-based Tom Walker Trio, Big Wolf Band, Rebecca Downes Band, The Mentalls, Black Thunder Revue, Sunjay, Blacktop Deluxe, Paul Stedman Band, Gwyn Ashton, Silverthorne and The Rainbreakers.

There will be free parking and camping available at the ground The event is expected to last for 12 hours and tickets cost £10.

For more information visit [www.stourbridgebluesfestival.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgebluesfestival.co.uk)

## YOUTH

### Pro helps design village bike track

KINVER Bike Track, which has been constructed with advice from professional mountain bike rider Ricky Crompton, has been officially opened.

Voluntary organisation Kinver Action Group raised £23,500 in grant aid for the project.

Now youngsters will be able to enjoy the thrilling new facility, which has replaced a worn out bike track.

The new bike track is alongside the village Skate Park, which Kinver Action Group built with lottery and local funding in 2010.

## DEMOLITION

### It's the last rites for St Luke's church

A CHURCH forced to close due to a six-figure restoration bill will be demolished under new plans.

St Luke's Church, in Cradley Heath, closed after almost 170 years of worship in October because of escalating repair costs, estimated at £750,000, with the congregation moving their services to St John's Church, in Dudley Wood.

Rev Alicia Baker said it was disappointing that the church had to be demolished but there was little alternative.

## WORK

### Army helping the jobless to get skills

THE unemployed are being drilled in how to prepare themselves for the world of work courtesy of a course run by the Army.

B Squadron of The Royal Yeomanry in Dudley is running the 10-day course aimed at the jobless to help boost their self-esteem, confidence and employability. The course is called Midlands Supporting People into Employment with the Army Reserve.

It started on Monday and runs until May 22 and is being held at the Army Reserve Centre at Vicar Street, Dudley, with some of the activities at Swynnerton Army Training Area, RAF Cosford and Himley Hall.

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# Thief crashed BMW into a police van

A PROLIFIC offender who crashed into a police van while escaping from pursuing officers has been locked up for a year.

David Flavell narrowly missed pedestrians - including children - while driving across an area of grass to get away in a stolen BMW convertible on Good Friday, April 3, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Police saw the 32-year-old, who had 33 previous convictions involving 137 separate offences, in Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge.

He was seen getting into a car that

had been taken during a burglary in Worcester on March 31.

Flavell ignored an instruction from police officers to get out of the vehicle and instead drove over the pavement, colliding with a police van, said Mr Philip Beardwell, prosecuting.

## Pedestrians

He then sped down Meriden Avenue in the car before cutting across an area of grass where pedestrians were walking.

He was able to leave behind pursuing police who were stuck in traffic.

Flavell had also stolen a total of £350 worth of food during five thefts in as many days from supermarkets in Wollaston and Stourbridge.

The spate of thefts had got under way on March 22.

Seven days before that he had dropped a £46 haul of meat and fled from a shop in the same area.

He was caught on CCTV and identified from the footage by police who had arrested him in the past.

He was then traced and detained by police.

Miss Amanda Jenkins, defending,

said the dangerous driving had only lasted a couple of minutes. She added that the defendant had been battling with drug addiction for many years.

## Disregard

Flavell, of Coppice Avenue, Stourbridge, admitted six offences of theft, dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking and also driving when banned.

He was jailed by Judge Nicholas Webb, who told him: "You showed a total disregard for the safety of other road users."

# Midwife gets caution for accessing records

**A MIDWIFE will not be struck off - despite accessing the medical records of more than 22 people to find out which one of her colleagues was pregnant.**

Naomi Fletcher began spying on her colleagues' blood records at Russells Hall Hospital when she heard a rumour that one of them was carrying a baby.

The midwife gave herself away when she told a co-worker she knew she was not pregnant as she had browsed her file. But she has escaped a ban following a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) hearing.

Fletcher, who now works at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, was investigated where it was discovered she had inappropriately read through the confidential records of colleagues, patients and family.

Those investigations revealed she had accessed the files of 22 colleagues, patients, an ex-partner, and members of her own family in May and June 2013.

Fletcher was given a three-year caution at the hearing, which she did not attend.

Fletcher was suspended from duty while an investigation was carried out.

The inquiry discovered that she had entered the names of 19 members of staff during one night shift and examined the blood records for eight.

## Admitted

There were other incidents when she had done the same, including looking at records of her mother, ex-husband, ex-partner and her own children. Fletcher admitted the charges.

NMC panel chair Stephen Barker said: "The panel acknowledged that Ms Fletcher is currently working as a midwife and no further issues or concerns have been raised since the incidents which occurred in 2013.

"It accepts that Ms Fletcher has demonstrated insight into her misconduct and remorse for her actions, as evidenced in her reflective statement and had regard to two positive references from her current employers.

"Ms Fletcher's misconduct is considered to be at the lower end of the spectrum of impaired fitness to practice."

Fletcher worked at Russells Hall Hospital from October 2011 to October 2013.

## VE Day celebrated in style at museum



Pete Collins of Oldbury and Penny Phillips from Birmingham at the VE Day party at the Black Country Living Museum

Celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe in the Second World War continued through the weekend. The streets of the Black Country were decorated with bunting and marked with song and dance.

Just as the whole of England came together to mark the defeat of Nazi Germany on May 8, 1945, a new generation paid tribute to those who lost their lives.

One major event to mark the VE Day anniversary was at the Black

Country Living Museum in Dudley where soldiers and a Winston Churchill actor celebrated the anniversary in 1940s uniforms and fashions.

## Speeches

A street party and stirring speeches entertained a crowd of 1,500 people to mark the special occasion.

Re-enactors gave the VE Day commemorations a taste of 1945 and families enjoyed the street

party, while Winston Churchill look-alike Robert Burns from Walsall recited Sir Winston's speeches word for word.

A US army base was set up with weapons, ammunition crates and tents so people could see what our Allies from across the Atlantic were like.

Spam fritters were on sale in the fish and chip shop, with the streets of the Tipton Road museum were filled with bunting and vintage cars took to the cobbled streets.

# Planners to look at £3m performing arts college

PLANS for a £3 million performing arts centre at Halesowen College will go before councillors next week.

It is the latest stage of a revamp at the site, with £20m being invested in replacing buildings.

The centre will provide teaching rooms and rehearsal space for students on music, drama and dance courses.

The college has been struggling to provide enough space for the growing number of students taking performing arts courses.

Some currently having to travel off campus to use facilities at Benjamins, a function hall in the town centre.

The new complex was due to be connected to other buildings at the Whittingham Road site by a glass walkway, which the college had hoped to use as an exhibition space and break area for students.

But fire officers at Dudley Council said as the link way would be the main escape route for the block, it would need to be left clear, putting a stop to the college's plans.

Revised designs have been submitted for a stand alone complex after bosses said they would not be able to use the glazed walk way as they had hoped.

Councillors have previously supported the scheme - despite dozens of objections from people living near the college who feared surrounding roads will become further clogged with cars.

A decision will be made on the revised plans at a meeting of Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

# Morris dancing in the streets

A TOWN centre will be alive with stick-wielding and clog-stomping on Saturday during a day of morris dancing.

The Stourbridge-based Bedcote Morris Dancers will host the event in their home town with performances taking place throughout the day from 11am.

Performers from across the Midlands will be bringing a variety of traditional dance to Lower High Street.

As well as the traditional Cotswold morris, there will be displays of Border morris, North-West clog, Appalachian step, belly dancing and step clogging.

Elaine Jones, Squire of Bedcote Morris, said: "We spend most weekends throughout the summer travelling to perform in dance and folk festivals so it's a real pleasure to be hosting a 'home

# More than 60 boats at pumphouse rally

A BOAT rally will be taking place this weekend when more than 60 boats gather at Birmingham Canal Navigation Society's HQ at Titford Pumphouse in Oldbury. On Saturday and Sunday there will be boat trips on the canal. The event is from 11am until 4pm on both days.



NEWS IN BRIEF

# Best of British is choir's inspiration

A MIXED voice choir with 70 members is tuning up for a concert in Cradley Heath this weekend.

Viva Musica will be performing at the Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday.

The theme is British composers of contemporary choral music, and will include pieces ranging from John Rutter and Karl Jenkins to Paul McCartney and Elton John.

Tickets cost £9 available by calling 01562 883480 or 0121 550 5581. For details visit [www.viva-musica.co.uk](http://www.viva-musica.co.uk) website or the choir's Facebook page.

# Authors book in for talks at library

THREE authors will be visiting Dudley to share their enthusiasm for reading.

The Readers' Afternoon event takes place on Saturday between 1 and 4pm at the Archives and Local History Centre on Tipton Road.

Birmingham-born Fiona Joseph has written a biography of Beatrice Cadbury and a novel about Cadbury workers. Samantha Hayes from Warwickshire writes thrillers and Bewdley author Robert Ronsson's second novel is Out of Such Darkness.

Tickets are £5. Call (01384) 812770.

# Talk on monarch found in car park

KING Richard III will be in the spotlight during Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Historian Max Keen will be giving a talk about the monarch's life and the discovery of his body buried under a Leicester car park in September 2012.

It will take place in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on May 21 at 7.30pm.

For more details visit the website [www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com)

# Housing plan for site of former warehouse

FOURTEEN homes will be built on the site of a former warehouse in Stourbridge.

Tim Warrington has lodged proposals to demolish the derelict building on Careless Green to make way for the development of three and four bedroom homes.

The warehouse has been empty since 2010, bosses said.

The scheme will be considered by Dudley Council with a decision expected within the next three months.

# Homes scheme at pub

A SCHEME for 14 homes on the site of a former pub in Kingswinford has won the support of planning officers.

The Summerhouse in The Portway would make way for the development of two, three and four-bedroom houses after an application by Yetti Bar (UK) Ltd.

# Threat to bury pig at mosque site

THE leader of a far-right group threatened to bury a pig on the proposed site of a controversial mosque to religiously 'contaminate' the ground.

Britain First leader Paul Golding led 150 protesters through Dudley, where they were heckled by locals during the march.

The group targeted the town to 'show solidarity' over plans for a large mosque in Hall Street.

But Mr Golding said: "That mosque has not been constructed yet and I can tell you now it won't be.

"In previous cases like Seville in Spain, patriots, local residents, have buried pigs on the land. Contrary to what it says in the Koran, you can't build on swine-infested, contaminated land.

"We will take that action if necessary."

His members chanted 'Britain First fighting back' and held Union Flags aloft before coming to a halt at the borough's Council House.

## Peaceful

The protest was largely peaceful, although police intervened on a few occasions.

But some people in the town centre made their feelings towards the group clear as they passed, telling them to leave Dudley, while some were visibly upset by anti-Islam speeches that were made on Saturday.

Police made no arrests and Britain First left after only a couple of hours. Around 100 officers had been drafted in to manage the march.

A counter demonstration was also held by anti-fascism groups, while a handful of military veterans confronted members of Britain First.

The roads in Dudley town centre remained open during the day and the march did not have the sort of negative trade impact the EDL's protest did in February. Dudley Council offered free parking in the town centre to encourage shoppers on Saturday.

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman said that Britain First's visit would have no bearing on the ongoing High Court proceedings in relation to proposals for a mosque.

"Britain First can add nothing to the council's discussions in relation to the Dudley Muslim Association's proposed mosque in Hall Street," she added.

# More needs to be done to tackle knife crime

## MORE than half of all knife crime recorded in the West Midlands over the last four years remains unsolved.

Blades were used in hundreds of robberies, rapes and attacks across the region, as well as in high-profile murder cases such as those of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins and factory worker Tom Kirwan.

A Freedom of Information request has revealed that of the 10,140 knife crimes reported to West Midlands Police between 2010 and 2014 — 6,231 remain unsolved. A total of 3,909 cases were solved by officers in that time.

The family and friends of victims say more should be done to address the problem.

Jade Elwell, whose 23-year-old fiancé Tom Kirwan was stabbed to death outside a Wolverhampton nightclub, said: "I hope someone can see these figures and realise that it is time to do something serious before it is too late."

Chris Melia, great uncle of knife victim Christina Edkins, said: "The man who killed Christina is now locked up but that doesn't solve the issue for us. He was only at large due to the failings of people in the health service and prison service. It was a needless death and work needs to be done to ensure this never happens again."

Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis, West Midlands Police's chief officer for knife crime, said the possession of blades 'would not be tolerated'. She said: "West Midlands Police has invested heavily in campaigns and operations to tackle knife crime across the region over the past 10 years, which has led to a significant decrease over time in the number of offences recorded."

## Fallen

"Since 2006 the number of offences has fallen dramatically and, despite an increase of around 150 offences between 2012 and 2014, we are now back on track to see a significant decrease in offending over the past year. Currently we are looking at a 116 fewer offences compared to the same period last year, which amounts to a 7.7 per cent decrease.

"As a direct response to listening to community requests, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Birmingham City Council launched the knife surrender last year, which we supported, seeing eight bins launched across Birmingham and Wolverhampton to reduce the number of bladed weapons on our streets.

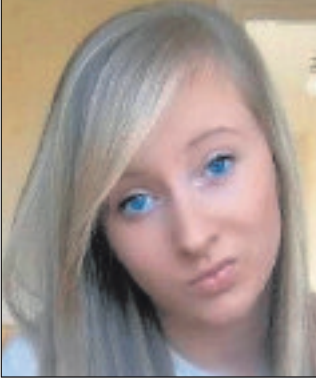
"This campaign continues alongside significant resources ploughed into educating youngsters about the dangers of carrying a knife."

Tom, a 23-year-old Wolves fan on a night out at Wolverhampton's former Uberria club, was murdered in 2012. It is still not known who struck the fatal wound, even though five people were locked up last year for their part in a street brawl during the lead-up to his death. His 24-year-old fiancée Jade Elwell has been campaigning on knife crime ever since.

Schoolgirl Christina Edkins was killed in 2013 during a motiveless knife attack on a Birmingham bus. The 16-year-old was studying for her GCSEs at Leasowes High School in Halesowen. She was murdered by paranoid schizophrenic, Phillip Simelane from Walsall. He is detained indefinitely.



The Birmingham bus on which Christina Edkins was stabbed to death by Phillip Simelane



Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins



Christina Edkins' great uncle, Chris Melia

# Three are acquitted of attempt to murder

THREE young men accused of attacking a man with baseball bat have been cleared of attempted murder.

A jury cleared Kasim Ali, aged 20, and two 17-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, who were accused of attempting to murder 37-year-old father Tariq Mahmood.

They were also accused of attacking his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary outside the pair's Dudley home in August. Mr Mahmood's serious injuries meant part of his skull had to be removed.

Following a two-week trial, a jury found Ali, of Aston Road, Dudley, and one of the teenagers not guilty on three charges — attempted murder, causing grievous bodily harm with intent, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The other teenager was found not guilty of attempted murder and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

After further deliberation, the jury found the teenager not guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent but guilty of the lesser charge of causing grievous bodily harm. He is due to be sentenced on June 5.

The court heard there had been a dispute between Mr Choudhary and one of the youths on social media website Instagram.

Prosecutor Mr Robert Pricetold the court that one of the teenagers had swung a baseball bat in the direction of Mr Choudhary, as his stepfather tried to intervene. Mr Ali said he had been attacked by Mr Choudhary when he visited the house in Hillcrest Road.

# TV presenter at Songsters' concert

TELEVISION presenter Philippa Tomson, who is from Stourbridge, will be the compere for a Kingswinford choir's concert on Saturday.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will be performing at Dudley Town Hall at 7.30pm. The Songsters' special guests will be the Cradley Heath-based choir Voices In Harmony, formerly known as The Sandwell Community Choir.

Philippa Tomson is a former chief reporter with the Express & Star who began her career in journalism on the Dudley Chronicle. She has also presented weather forecasts for Daybreak and GMTV.

Tickets for the concert are £10 and are available by calling the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

# TOWIE stars at shopping centre

STARS of The Only Way is Essex will be at Merry Hill on Saturday. Lauren Pope, Lydia Bright, Fearne McCann and Georgia Kouslou visit the Brierley Hill centre to launch the Only Way is Marbs fragrance at 2.30pm.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



COLUMNIST and curmudgeon Rod Liddle draws our attention to a survey which suggests women do not notice men over 50. Thank heavens. I thought it was just me.

QUOTES for our time. "If it wasn't for the riots we wouldn't have got this far." Black youth on the streets of Baltimore speaking to the BBC after six policemen were charged following the death of a black suspect. Or, to put it another way, rioting works.

TOLD you so. A couple of years ago, as gay marriage was being rushed on to the statute book, I suggested that once the tradition of man + woman had been broken, there was really no reason why marriage should not include all sorts of relationships. A few days ago, the gay website Pink News put the question of threesomes to the Green Party leader Natalie Bennett and this is what she said: "We have led the way on many issues related to the liberalisation of legal status in adult consenting relationships, and we are open to further conversation and consultation." In other words, start planning the three-way reception now. A MetroNews poll in response revealed, at the time of writing, 42 per cent support for three-way marriages and civil partnerships. How quickly attitudes change. It is striking how those Pink News readers who fervently defend two-person marriages now come across as reaction-ary fuddy-duddies.

I SENSED there would be trouble when the new World Snooker Champion Stuart Bingham reflected on the pure hell of getting to the top. What did the title mean to him? "Everything," replied the champ. "Twenty years as a pro. Blood, sweat, and tears, on the road, qualifying in places like Prestatyn and Malvern – places like that." Sure enough, the Mayor of Prestatyn has duly taken offence and publicly declared: "We, the residents, are very proud of our town." I dare say you are, Madam Mayor. But we all know exactly what Bingham was talking about, the separation, isolation and misery of staying in sterile, lookalike hotels in towns you don't know: the loneliness of the long-distance potter. Instead of the mayor going all hurt and defensive, how about doing something imaginative? Like offering Stuart Bingham the freedom of Prestatyn.

WHILE we all loved the suspense, does anyone seriously believe that the gender of the royal baby and her name were not known well in advance? The Royal Family is not a real family but an extremely slick marketing and investment corporation. And I bet the name Charlotte was agreed weeks ago.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Apartments for over-55s snapped up

MORE than half of the apartments at a new £16million retirement village — built on the site of the former Cradley High School — have been snapped up.

Lime Gardens, which has 120 homes for the over 55s, welcomed its first residents three weeks ago.

Among the facilities are a gym, games and hobby rooms and a coffee shop.

There are also woodland and garden areas and a greenhouse.

John Millar, housing boss at Dudley Council, said: "This is the third extra care scheme that we've developed in partnership with Midland Heart, and represents the future of housing for older people. It really is first class, both in terms of the physical build, quality of care and the fantastic range of facilities on offer."

Matt Colloby, of developers William Davis Limited said: "The Lime Gardens development is a classic example of collaborative working. Everyone involved should be very proud of their achievements."

### Confident

Ruth Cooke, chief executive at Midland Heart said: "We have a great staff team, great facilities and

I'm confident our customers will be very happy here in a safe, secure environment."

It's the third development of its kind in Dudley from Midland Heart, following similar schemes on the Russells Hall estate and in Coseley. The scheme, which has created 60 jobs, is designed for people aged over 55 to live independently in their own apartments.

# Labour clings on to power amid Tory gains

By Heather Large

**LABOUR has retained its grip on Dudley Council but saw its majority fall as the Conservatives increased their share of the seats.**

The Labour group now has 38 seats on the council – four fewer than before – with deputy leader and finance boss Stuart Turner the most high profile casualty.

He lost his spot to former councillor leader Anne Millward who was ousted from the Gornal seat by Mr Turner by just two votes in 2011.

It was one of five seats won by the Tories bringing their total up to 25, which Tory leader Councillor Patrick Harley said they would continue build on in future.

UKIP was unable to add to its seven seats and the Green party also failed to win anything, meaning it remains with one councillor.

One of the only two independent seats on the council turned blue with Conservative Jeff Hill taking the seat left vacant by retiring councillor Ken Turner.

There had been 24 seats up for grabs across the borough.

### Mixed

Council leader Pete Lowe admitted there had been 'a mixed bag' of results for Labour and said he believed the Dudley group has been 'adversely affected by the General Election picture'.

"I'm pleased we remain in overall control of the council but we have lost some very good councillors," he added.

Councillor Harley said he was pleased with the gains made. "They have been fantastic results nationally and we have had some good results in Dudley," he said.

Conservative Tina Westwood was able to secure her father David Caunt's Sedgley seat after he stood down before the election. Among Labour councillors celebrating was cabinet member for health Rachel Harris who kept her Brierley Hill seat.

● Results — see page 8

## Mayor marks VE Day with veterans



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston chats with veteran Gordon Willetts, 88, from The Broadway

MEMORIES of VE Day came flooding back when the Mayor of Dudley welcomed military veterans for a special event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe.

The 25 ex-service personnel enjoyed tea and cakes with Mayor Margaret Aston in her parlour. Music from the 1940s played as the former servicemen from the Royal British Legion and Royal Air Force Association reminisced. Councillor Aston paid tribute to forces personnel, describing them as 'outstanding.'

She said: "In this borough we are very proud to be one of the first local authorities to sign the community covenant to support the work of our armed forces past and present."

Gordon Willetts, aged 88, was one of the servicemen attending the tea and cake event last week, having served with the Worcestershire Regiment in India. He remembered the end of the war in Europe as he was with his regiment in Wales, having returned from India.

Mr Willetts, who lives in The Broadway, Dudley, said: "The Army took us all on a day out to Tenby to celebrate the end of the war. It was wonderful because we knew what everybody had gone through."

John Deane, 78, of Maygrove Road, Kingswinford, joined the RAF in 1955 and was an eight-year-old on VE Day. He recalled a bonfire in the street and firework display in Laurel Crescent. He added: "It was an atmosphere of celebration and excitement."

# Grants to warm more properties in borough

FAMILIES can apply for a share of a £164,000 cash pot to help keep their homes warm.

Dudley Council has received the funding from the Government's Fuel Poverty Health Booster Fund. It can be used to have new central heating boilers installed, loft and cavity wall insulation and draught proofing fitted.

To apply for the funding people must live in Dudley borough, own their home, be in receipt of certain benefits and have a member of the household that has a long term health condition.

### Concern

John Millar, Dudley Council's acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "Fuel Poverty and health conditions made worse from living in a cold home are a real concern in Dudley, and something we have been working very hard to address."

"We are thrilled to receive this funding from Department for Energy and Climate Change, it will have a real impact for some of Dudley's most vulnerable residents to help them achieve an affordable warmer home."

Those wanting to apply for the funding people should contact the council's Dudley Energy Advice Line on (01384) 817086. Staff offer a home visit where they will discuss heating and insulation measures, grants available and qualifying criteria for the free funding.

## Passenger attacks train conductor

POLICE are appealing for information after a train conductor was assaulted by a passenger.

The attack happened on a service going from Wolverhampton to Walsall when it stopped at Coseley Railway Station.

The conductor suffered minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment. British Transport Police have launched an investigation into the attack.

Spokesman Kit Bradshaw said: "We were called to Coseley Railway Station shortly before 3.15pm on Thursday following reports that a member of train staff had been assaulted. Enquiries are ongoing."

Anyone with information is asked to contact British Transport Police on 0800 405040.

## Focus on everyday Black Country life

EVERYDAY life in the Black Country is on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery from May 23 to August 22. It is showing the work of photographer Martin Parr who has spent four years capturing scenes in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Future of health services on agenda

PEOPLE in Dudley will be able to hear about plans to improve health services across the borough.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will hold its board meeting today (Thursday).

Members will be discussing a range of issues regarding healthcare in the borough and residents are being invited to attend.

The meeting will take place in the boardroom at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, from 1pm to 4pm.

Nearly new sale by child charity

PARENTS can get bargains at a nearly new sale of baby and children's clothes being held in Quarry Bank on Saturday.

It has been organised by children's charity NCT Stourbridge and Halesowen branch.

Visitors to the sale could save around 70 per cent on what items cost bought new.

As well as clothes, there will be toys and equipment at the event at Thorns Leisure Centre from 11am to 1pm, with early entry at 10.30am for NCT members.

Vintage fair for fashion and vinyl

A VINTAGE fair will take place in Stourbridge on Saturday from 11am to 4pm.

Stalls selling clothes, fashion accessories, homeware, crafts and vinyl records will fill St Thomas' Church in Market Street at Kiki & Honey's Vintage and Retro fair.

There will also be a charity stall for Mary Stevens Hospice. Meanwhile, the Cakehole will be serving home-baked refreshments. Entry will cost 50p, children admitted free.

Dance is for Dementia Awareness Week drive

THE Alzheimer's Society is holding a special event in Dudley as part of Dementia Awareness Week, which begins on Sunday.

The sing-along and tea dance is taking place in The Station Hotel in Castle Hill on Wednesday, May 20 from 2pm to 4pm.

Admission will be free for all people who are aged over 50.

To book a place at the dance, contact Carol Bowsher on 0121 521 3020.

Underground ukuleles

THE Sedgley Ukulele Strummers will be giving an underground concert in Dudley next month. The group will be performing for Dudley Canal Trust in the Singing Cavern on June 20. Tickets are £10.80 and the boat departs from the trust's site off Birmingham New Road at 7pm. Call 0121 5576265.

Hundreds of jobs may go at hospitals to save £16m

MORE than 200 jobs face are at risk at Sandwell's hospital trust during the next 12 months, as part of plans to slash more than £16 million from the wages bill.

It's the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

Bosses are looking to scrap 205 'whole time equivalent' positions by March 2016 but say around 260 workers are expected to be affected by the move.

A consultation is under way and it's hoped that a 'significant' number of the posts can be cut by redeploying staff or not recruiting for vacant roles.

The trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital, has already redeployed 150 workers to other roles since first announcing its plans last year.

Despite looking at reducing its pay bill, the hospital trust has vowed to continue investing in more A&E consultants and nurses.

A report by chief executive Toby Lewis, which went before directors of the trust's board, says: "A statutory consultation process will commence for affected staff groups. Circa 260 staff will be affected by the changes proposed. A significant amount of posts will be released through the disestablishment of vacant posts and re-deployment."

The plans will reduce the trust's pay bill by £16.1m.

It comes after NHS inspectors declared that Sandwell and West

Play week target more than 5,000

DUDLEY Council is looking to top the 5,000 participant mark at Dudley Play Week, from August 3 to 7.

There will be free activities run from noon to 4pm in the following borough parks: Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, August 3; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, August 4; Wollescote Park, August 5; Priory Park, Dudley, August 6 and The Dell and Pens Pool, Brierley Hill, August 7.

Activities for children will include a climbing wall, arts and crafts, face painting and an animal area.

Organisations interested in getting involved are invited to meetings on June 19 and July 16 at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton, from 10am to noon. Contact Keith Rogers on (01384) 813828.

Choir in concert for cancer charity

SEDGLEY'S Beacon Community Choir is performing a concert in aid of Cancer Research in the Mill Theatre at the Dormston Centre in Mill Bank on May 21 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £5 are available by calling 07522 577285.

Nearly 300 homes on way at old quarry

NEARLY 300 homes will be built on a disused quarry in the Black Country under a 30-year blueprint to transform the site.

A huge waste management facility would also be built on the site of the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis, if the scheme goes ahead.

FCC Environment is leading the project to transform the quarry, which has lain dormant for more than ten years.

The firm claims it is offering a 'realistic and deliverable restoration' of the site.

It is hoped the homes will be built by the beginning of the next decade but the overall project could take up to 30 years.

It would also include a mjaor waste facility site

and gas utilisation plant, plus a waste vehicle depot would also be built.

The company hopes the quarry will eventually be turned into a green space for use by residents.

Regenerate

The proposed development would regenerate the land and provide an extension forf Rowley Regis, bosses add.

The 281 homes would be built on the southern end of the site.

FCC said it was not 'practical, sustainable or desirable' to leave the site as it is.

In a statement, it said: "The site as it stands presents health and safety management issues in terms

of public access and has limited end-use to the wider public."

A design and access statement submitted with the plans stated: "The new homes will create a cohesive neighbourhood that will be well connected to, and integrated with, existing residential areas and can take advantage of local services in the immediate area, at Lion Farm and in nearby Blackheath centre.

"The scheme will enable the phased delivery of high-quality market homes with local play areas, informal open space and sustainable urban drainage systems, creating a landscape and ecological framework that retains valued natural features and links the site to the wider green network and footpaths."

Road widening sparks concerns and praise

SHOPKEEPERS and residents near a busy high street have spoken of their concern they could be forced to make way for a £6.3 million road widening scheme.

Plans have been unveiled to carry out improvements along a section of Pennsnett High Street, including the widening of the junction with High Oak and the demolition of a row of shops and homes.

An extra lane would be added to the High Street to alleviate traffic congestion.

However, the people with homes and businesses hit by the move claimed they have been left 'in limbo' by a lack of information.

They want to know from the council what will happen to their properties and whether they will receive compensation.

Nick Austin, who runs Austin's Barber Shop in High Oak, said a move out of his locality would risk losing up to half of his customers who were local 'walk-in' trade.

His business has been trading for six years and he has hundreds of customers.

He said: "I am not overly happy about it but there is not a lot I can do about it. I will just have to find another job."

A tenant in Pennsnett High Street, who did not wish to be named, said: "I don't really want to have to move, but if they do go ahead with the scheme then I have not really got much option."

But Denise Huxley, whose home is also set for demolition, described the plans as "absolutely wonderful" saying she wanted to move away from the home she had owned and lived in for 37 years because of the increasing levels of traffic and noise in the High Street.

She said the problems had mounted since the Merry Hill shopping centre opened in 1985 and claimed that residents had first proposed the road being widened 20 years ago.

Traffic lights would be introduced on junctions at both High Oak and Tansey Green Road. The widening of the junction with High Oak would see the adjoining Bradley Street closed to through traffic.

The council would use a compulsory purchase order to buy land either side of the road to allow for it to be widened.

The work will take a year and could start in January 2017.

It comes on the back of a consultation last year which saw people back the dual carriage-way scheme.

Service still popular 30 years on



Library assistants Amanda Baker and Louise Marsh with information online and in leaflet form

AN INFORMATION service provided by libraries in Dudley borough is still proving to be popular with residents — 30 years after it was set up.

Dudley Community Information Directory began at Stourbridge Library in 1985 with a collection of books and leaflets but since then it has developed via the digital age to include an online community information directory, which last year had more

than 130,000 visits from people seeking advice.

Dudley libraries continue to stock 260 different leaflets and last year dealt with more than 45,000 requests for information.

Deborah Harkins, chief officer for libraries, said: "This fantastic service has continued to grow and is offered online and at all 13 borough libraries."

"Other local authorities have visited Dudley to look at our suc-

cessful online service as we cover such an extensive range of topics.

"Even though so much information is now available online, we continue to receive thousands of requests for leaflets from people such as students and those wanting tourist information."

"Dudley Community Information Directory is for everyone and we are encouraging more people to use it and add details of their group and events."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

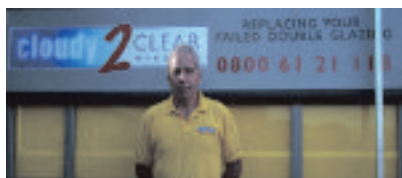
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Why defeat at election is difficult to swallow

IMMEDIATELY after the BBC exit poll predicted that the Liberal Democrats were on course to lose dozens of seats at the General Election, former party leader Paddy Ashdown responded: "If this exit poll is right, I will publicly eat my hat."

Not to be outdone, former Labour spin doctor Alastair Campbell announced he would eat his kilt.

So, given that we all know that politicians never break their promises, we can all look forward to a lot of clothes-eating over the coming few days.

Although in the case of Mr Campbell, I do make one request.

Yes I know what the old Scottish tradition is, but on this occasion nobody will hold it against you if you choose to break with convention.

Please, please Alastair, make sure you wear some underpants.

□□□□□

ONE of the strangest, and most poignant scenes of the past few days was watching the VE Day service on Friday, where Prime Minister David Cameron joined soon-to-be-ex party leaders Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, as well as Democratic Unionist leader Peter Robinson and the SNP's Nicola Sturgeon in laying their wreaths at the cenotaph.

What did these people say to one another? Just hours before, they had been fighting to the bitter end for their differing objectives, and using some pretty colourful imagery along the way.

And there they were, all facing very different futures after the public had delivered its verdict, and in two cases representing their political parties for the very last time.

I actually found it rather touching, and will confess to a little grudging respect to Messrs Miliband and Clegg for conducting themselves with such dignity.

It can't have been easy appearing so publicly with their opponents after such an uncomfortable night.

But serves as a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a country where political opponents will graciously put on a united front when it comes to honouring our dead.

When it comes to having a pop at the political classes, I love to have a pop as much as the next man, but we are all very privileged that we have the freedom to do that.

Seventy years ago, Britain celebrated a triumph of freedom and democracy over narrow authoritarianism, of free and robust debate over intimidation and suppression.

Whatever your views on the outcome of the election, we should all be grateful that we had the opportunity to take part in it.

And acknowledge the role of those brave soldiers who ensured it was possible.



Iwona Stachura sorts out the stock at Cash4Clothes



Staff sift through clothes brought in by Chris Haynes



The Cash4Clothes unit in Hollies Park Road, Cannock

# Cash in on clothes to join a growing trend

An entrepreneur has fashioned a recycling initiative which is now becoming big business. **MARION BRENNAN** reports

**"PEOPLE try little tricks, like wetting the clothes so that they weigh more, but mostly customers are fine. We get all sorts of labels, from Primark to Armani. We're only concerned that they're rewearable."**

So says Christian Farnell, chief executive of Cash4Clothes which now has 30 outlets across the UK, mainly in the Midlands, in the ever-growing textile recycling industry.

Charity shops, eBay, textile banks – today there are more ways than ever to get rid of your unwanted clothes, and the newest trend, which sees people getting paid for their cast-offs, is now big business.

In 12 months Cash4Clothes has paid out more than £3 million to the public for their unwanted garments. In Cannock alone in the last four years that figure is £5.5m.

"It's a very big business and it employs a lot of people in different countries," says the 31-year-old, of Willenhall, a former Great Wyrley High School and Cannock College student.

## Truckloads

The company pays 50p a kilogram for textiles, which generally works out at a fiver a bin bag, which it then sells on to customers in Eastern Europe. One trader in the Czech Republic has 12 shops, another has 11 stores in Poland and Slovenia. Around 16 truckloads, each with 18 tons of clothes aboard, leave their HQ in the Hollies Business Park, Cannock every month headed for the continent.

At the end of the journey, the East European merchants pick out the best clothes – the loads also include bags, shoes, belts and bedwear – to sell in their shops, then bale the remainder and sell it on to traders in Africa.

So whatever option people choose, their old



Cash4Clothes chief executive officer Christian Farnell, aged 31, from Willenhall in the trading unit at Cannock

clothes, even those freely donated, will generally end up in the hands of a specialist group or textile merchants.

Cash4Clothes was started in 2010 by Darren Coggins, born and raised in Stafford, who launched European Textile Recycling Limited 23 years ago.

The canny entrepreneur, now 49, started out in house clearance, working mainly with local councils. Always one step ahead, he moved into textile banks, operating 500 sites at the height of the business before selling to JMP Wilcox, one of the UK's largest textile reclaimers.

Christian Farnell, whose CV includes In-Shops in Cannock and working as operations manager for Tesco, looking after 300 stores in Poland and Hungary, describes his boss as

"very forward-thinking". He said: "He flipped the textile banks idea on its head. Instead of paying the council for the use of their tip sites, he pays the public. If they want, they can track what happens to their clothes, where they go, who benefits. He was the first to do it – others have followed but he's the biggest."

Research shows that in Kenya alone more than five million jobs and ancillary posts have been created in the second-hand clothing industry, from people unloading the containers, tailors altering the clothes, stallholders selling at market and landlords leasing premises.

The firm's Midland interests include shops Dudley, Kidderminster, Rugeley, Lichfield, Stafford, Stone, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Aldridge.

All sorts of clothes are accepted, as long as

they are clean and undamaged. "I think things are changing," says Christian. "People are recycling more and more. Everyone's got clothes that are too big or too small that they want to get rid of and if they know they can get paid for it, they're even more inclined to do it."

"They can still choose to give the money we pay them to charity. I think the public are split. Either they want to the feel-good factor of giving to charity shops or they're not that way inclined."

"We set up in places where people are less well-off and might need the money."

"Sometimes people come in because they haven't got enough cash to top up the electricity meter. We still do a lot of work with charity shops, they buy stock from us, we have a lot of trading arms. We just provide another option."

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# Concern over impact of rapeseed crop

THE benefits of rapeseed oil to the economy as a bio-fuel are well documented. It is also being promoted as a healthy cooking oil, but there is a disturbing element to this pernicious import when it is grown in close proximity to populated areas. Check it out by Googling 'rapeseed allergies'.

Reactions include asthma-like symptoms, skin rashes and itching, sore eyes, watery eyes and headaches. Take it from me, suffering from several of these symptoms is a very unpleasant experience.

In Wall heath we were once sur-

rounded by beautiful fields of corn and traditional crops, but now we have fields of rapeseed within yards of the Maidensbridge estate and adjacent to the Charterfields estate.

Rapeseed is present within half a mile of nearly all the schools in Kingswinford and Wall Heath, but the effects of the harmful chemicals emitted by rapeseed flowers can be felt miles away.

I have raised this matter with MPs, but with no response. We have a right to breathe clean air again and it is time that the Ministry for the Environment

recognised this problem and banned the growing of rapeseed within close proximity of populated areas.

We will know quite soon which government is really backing the people and which one cares only about commercial matters by their response to the rapeseed problem. If you live in the Kingswinford area, or anywhere close to rapeseed fields and you suffer from these symptoms, please join me in my quest and write to your MP about this issue.

**M CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

## Whistling at girls is a compliment

I HAVE noticed with interest the story of the girl who reported workmen for giving her a wolf-whistle and the police are looking in to it.

I would have thought the police had much more important things to deal with than this. This is not anything sexual and surely should be taken as a compliment.

I am 79 years of age and do not of course get wolf whistles nowadays, but I remember when I was in my teens getting wolf whistles, and I remember telling my uncle (who I was visiting at the time) about it and he said 'Don't worry about that, the time to worry is when you don't get wolf whistles anymore', and we just had a laugh about it.

So personally, and in my opinion, I think it's 'much ado about nothing' and should be taken I'm sure as it was meant – a compliment.

**A WILLIAMS**  
Tipton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## A&E no substitute for walk-in centre

ON May 5 I took my daughter to the walk-in centre, Dudley, to find it had closed down and moved to Russell Hall A&E. So I took my daughter to the A&E to find it full to the doors, the board announced that the waiting time was three hours.

The waiting time at the walk-in centre would have been no more than one hour. The difference is caused by the people needing A&E and the people visiting the walk-in because they cannot get an appointment to see their GP.

When it was publicly announced that it was being considered that the centre should move to A&E many people voiced their opinion that this would cause problems at A&E. A meeting was held in Dudley for interested parties to voice their opinion, but it was found that it was already passed for the move.

The medical team at the centre were first class. It was the sharp eye and fast thinking of a doctor at the walk-in that saved my daughter's life. This was voiced by a specialist at New Cross Hospital as most GPs would not have noticed the problem. Please, Dudley reopen it, this is your duty to your people.

**N D CADDICK**  
Coseley

## Miss Smith really did Cilla proud

I FEEL I must write to complain regarding comments printed in Pick Of The Week in The Chronicle on May 7.

Whoever wrote the comment saying the (brilliant) actress Sheridan Smith did not look or sound like Cilla Black (in TV drama-documentary Cilla) was not, in my opinion, watching the same drama as myself.

She had had singing lessons every day and also displayed her mannerisms perfectly. Well done Sheridan, you did Cilla proud.

**MRS M A BRADLEY**  
Lower Gornal

## Time for one limit on road

WHY has the road from M5 junction 3 to Grange Road island got three speed limits? Obviously motorists ignore this, so why don't we put in one speed limit along the entire stretch at 30mph? Motorists are not the priority – safety is.

**GAIL WORSEY**  
Halesowen

<h1>CASH Hawthorne &amp; Walker CARRY</h1>					
<b>Whole Boneless Danish Crown Gammons</b> <b>Was £2.28lb</b> <b>Now £1.89lb</b>	<b>Whole Boneless Pork Loins R/on or R/off</b> <b>Was £2.18lb</b> <b>Now £1.99lb</b> <b>Take 2</b> <b>£1.79lb</b>	<b>Whole Fresh Beef Fillets</b> <b>£7.95lb</b>	<b>Whole Boneless Black Angus Beef Roasts Grain Fed</b> <b>£2.89lb</b> <b>Approx. 12 to 14lb</b>	<b>Whole Black Angus Salmon Cuts of Beef</b> <b>Approx. 6lb</b> <b>£3.50lb</b>	<b>11lb Fresh Chicken Fillets (Additive Free)</b> <b>£24 per Tray</b> <b>Take 2 £22.50 per Tray</b>
<b>Boneless Turkey Crowns .....£2.79lb</b> <b>Whole Fresh Pork Bellies.....£1.79lb</b> <b>5lb Fresh Scottish Rump Steaks.....£4.99lb</b> <b>5lb Fresh Sirloin Steaks .....£6.99lb</b> <b>5lb Fresh Rib Eye Steaks .....£6.99lb</b> <b>All matured minimum 28 days</b> <b>5lb Packs of Locally Cured Short Back Bacon</b> <b>Was £8.99 per Pack Now £7.95 per Pack</b> <b>Smoked Now £8.95 per Pack</b>			<b>Homemade Pork Sausage</b> minimum pork content 75% <b>Pork &amp; Red Onion Sausage</b> <b>Tomato Sausage</b> (Fresh red Onion, Tomatoes, No Flavouring) <b>Pork &amp; Black Pudding</b> <b>FREEZER PACK £69.00!</b> <b>2 BEEF JOINTS, 2 LAMB JOINTS,</b> <b>2 PORK JOINTS, 2LB BEST PORK</b> <b>SAUSAGES, RUMP STEAKS,</b> <b>2LB HOME CURED BACON,</b> <b>LAMB CHOPS, PORK STEAKS.</b> <b>10 English Loin Lamb Chops...£7.99</b> <b>10 Pork Loin Steaks .....£7.99</b> <b>10 Scottish Sirloin Steaks.....£15.99</b>		
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# THE WINNERS AND THE LOSERS IN BATTLE FOR VOTES IN THE GENERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

## Results in your constituency

**Dudley North**  
 Rehan Afzal (Apni) 156  
 Ian Austin (Lab) 15,885  
 Will Duckworth (Green) 517  
 Bill Etheridge (UKIP) 9,113  
 Mike Collins (Lib Dem) 478  
 Les Jones (Con) 11,704  
 David Pitt (Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition) 139  
 Result: Labour Hold Majority: 4,181  
 Turnout: 62.6%

**Dudley South**  
 Paul Brothwood (UKIP) 7,236  
 Vicky Duckworth (Green) 970  
 Natasha Millward (Lab) 12,453  
 Martin Turner (Lib Dem) 828  
 Mike Wood (Con) 16,723  
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 4,270  
 Turnout: 63.3%

**Stourbridge**  
 Chris Bramall (Lib Dem) 1,538  
 Jim Carver (UKIP) 7,774  
 Margot James (Con) 21,195  
 Christian Kiever (Green) 1,021  
 Pete Lowe (Lab) 14,501  
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 6,694  
 Turnout: 66.6%

**Halesowen and Rowley Regis**  
 James Morris (Con) 18,933  
 John Payne (Green) 849  
 Stephanie Peacock (Lab) 15,851  
 Dean Perks (UKIP) 7,280  
 Peter Tyzack (Lib Dem) 905  
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 3,082  
 Turnout: 59.1%

**South Staffs**  
 Lyndon Jones (UKIP) 8,267  
 Kevin McElduff (Lab) 9,107  
 Claire McIlvenna (Green) 1,298  
 Gavin Williamson (Con) 29,478  
 Robert Woodthorpe Browne (Lib Dem) 1,448  
 Result: Conservative Hold Majority: 20,371  
 Turnout: 58.9%

# One Labour victory as Tories keep three

By Andrew Turton

**TORIES** were all smiles as they held onto their seats in Dudley borough while Labour's Ian Austin was re-elected with an increased majority.

Stourbridge, Dudley South and Halesowen and Rowley Regis all remained blue while Mr Austin successfully held off a challenge for his Dudley North seat.

A delighted Margot James held onto her Stourbridge seat with a majority of 6,694.

"I am very honoured that trust has been placed in me for a second term," the MP said.

Mike Wood was elected as Dudley South's new Tory MP replacing the outgoing Chris Kelly. The MP retained the Conservative seat after polling 16,723 votes.

"I am absolutely delighted," said Mr Wood. "It is a huge responsibility and a great honour. I look forward to working hard for local people and will start straight away."

James Morris celebrated keeping Halesowen and Rowley Regis with an increased majority, saying: "I made history at the last general election by being the first Conservative MP to be elected to any part of the Sandwell borough and now



Labour's Ian Austin gives his victory speech after the Dudley North election count at Dudley Concert Hall



Thumbs up at the Cornbow Hall as Conservative James Morris hears he has been re-elected

I am very proud to have been re-elected in a seat that Labour targeted."

In Dudley North, Ian Austin held onto his Labour seat and

also increased his majority. At the 2010 election he secured a slim 649 majority but this time round retained his seat with a majority of 4,000. "I want to

thank the people of Dudley for giving me the opportunity to serve the town for another five years. It is a massive honour and a great privilege," he said.



A kiss for the winner — Conservative Mike Wood gets a smacker from wife Laura



Jubilant Margot James, centre, celebrating holding her Stourbridge seat with supporters

## Results in your ward

**Amblecote**  
 Sikandar Ahmed (Lab) 1716, Christian Kiever (Green) 238, Pete Lee (UKIP) 1,776, Simon Tyler (Con) 3079  
 Con hold

**Belle Vale**  
 Liz Keenan (Lab) 2,533, Graeme Lloyd (UKIP) 1,279, Simon Phipps (Con) 2,728, Gemma Thompson (Green) 329  
 Con hold

**Brierley Hill**  
 Gordon Elocck (Green) 275, Rachel Harris (Lab) 2,351, Carl Owen (UKIP) 1,409, Kamran Razzaq (Con) 1,429  
 Lab hold

**Brockmoor & Pensnett**  
 Sue Greenway (Con) 1,593, Jennifer Hill (UKIP) 1,374, Karen Jordan (Lab) 2,069, Ben Sweeney (Green) 127  
 Lab hold

**Castle and Priory**  
 Ken Finch (Lab) 3,011, Alexander Kendall (Green) 202, Daryl Millward (Con) 1,481, Philip Wilmitt (UKIP) 1,695  
 Lab hold

**Coseley East**  
 Martin Duffield (Con) 1,399, Jon Hartless (Green) 159, Melvyn Mottram (Lab) 2,276, Craig Winyard (UKIP) 1,684  
 Lab hold

**Cradley & Wollescote**  
 Richard Body (Lab) 2,602, Alan Hopwood (Con) 1,704, Dennis Neville (Green) 218, Lee Sargeant (UKIP) 1,427  
 Lab hold

**Gornal**  
 Anne Millward (Con) 2,443, Andrew Parsons (UKIP) 2,203, Stuart Turner (Lab) 2,292, Ryan Virgo (Green) 124  
 Con gain

**Halesowen North**  
 Nathan Hunt (UKIP) 1,288, Ian McGarry (Lab) 2,337, John Payne (Green) 231, Karen Shakespeare (Con) 2,497  
 Con hold

**Halesowen South**  
 James Apperley (UKIP) 1,148, Derek Campbell (LD) 293, John Lewis (Lab) 1,815, Alan Taylor (Con) 3,633, Tim Weller (Green) 219  
 Con hold

**Hayley Green & Cradley South**  
 Michael Forsyth (UKIP) 1,222, Malcolm Freeman (Lab) 1,840, Jeff Hill (Con) 2,879, Colin Royle (Green) 242, Adrian Turner (Independent) 366  
 Con hold

**Kingswinford North & Wall Heath**  
 Lynn Boleyn (Lab) 1,944, Luke Harrison (Green) 196, Karl Reynolds (UKIP) 1,553, Nicola Richards (Con) 3,672  
 Con gain

**Kingswinford South**  
 Vicky Duckworth (Green) 326, Peter Hillman (UKIP) 1,356, Peter Miller (Con) 3,828, Shaz Saleem (Lab) 1,678  
 Con hold

**Lye & Stourbridge North**  
 Mohammed Hanif (Lab) 2,143, Asan Mishaq (Con) 1,937, Andi Mohr (Green) 218, Wendy Wilde (UKIP) 1,646  
 Lab hold

**Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's**  
 Stephen Daniels (UKIP) 1,474, Bill McCormish (Green) 1,288, Chris Neale (Con) 1,201, Qadar Zada (Lab) 2,113  
 Lab hold

**Norton**  
 Pam Archer (Green) 414, Mike Cran- nage (Lab) 1,527, Vic Hanson (LD) 429, David Powell (UKIP) 1,023, Heather Rogers (Con) 3,795  
 Con hold

**Pedmore & Stourbridge East**  
 Julie Baines (Lab) 1,673, Simon Han- son (LD) 357, Sabina Heywood (UKIP) 1,035, Ian Kettle (Con) 3,862, Liz Tilly (Green) 254  
 Con hold

**Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood**  
 Martin Cotterell (Green) 259, Jackie Cowell (Lab) 2,072, Dean Horton (UKIP) 1,750, Tim Wood (Con) 1,660  
 Lab hold

**Sadgley**  
 Marcia Harris (UKIP) 1,874, Emma Harrison (Green) 193, Sue Ridney (Lab) 1,779, Tina Westwood (Con) 2,914  
 Con hold

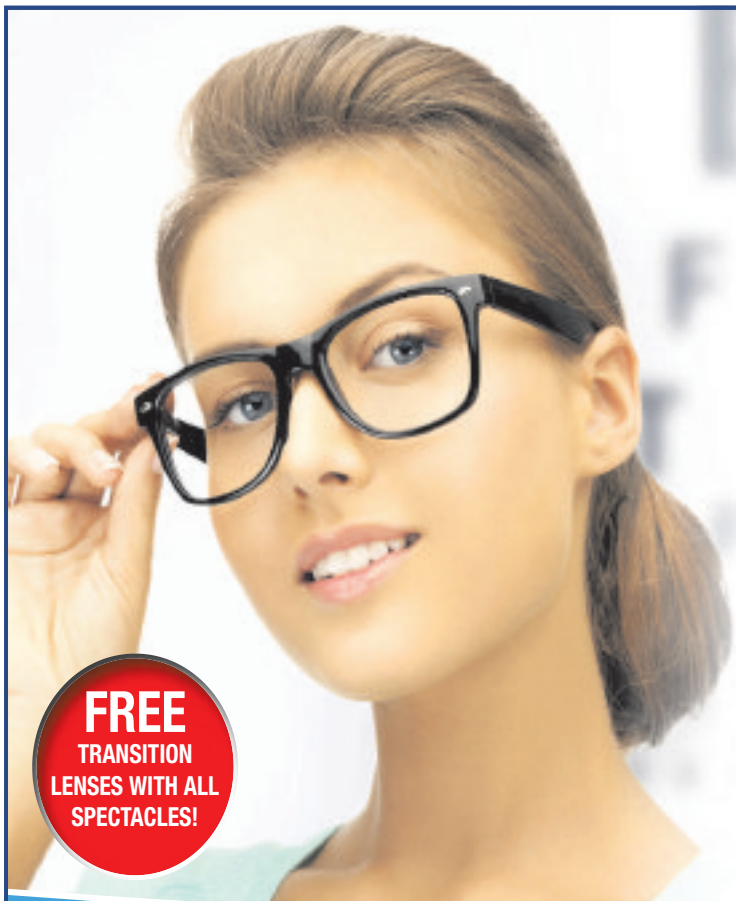
**St James's**  
 Adrian Crossen (Green) 186, Mary Roberts (Lab) 2,641, Phillip Rowe (UKIP) 1,642, Jack Spriggs (Con) 1,481  
 Lab hold

**St Thomas's**  
 Christian Green (Green) 258, Lila Red- fern (Con) 918, Glenis Simms (Lab) 3,351, Helen Wilmitt (UKIP) 1,310  
 Lab hold

**Upper Gornal & Woodsetton**  
 Doreen Ameson (Con) 1,864, Adam Aston (Lab) 2,256, Daniel Brookes (Green) 154, Fiona Evans (UKIP) 1,795  
 Lab hold

**Wollaston & Stourbridge Town**  
 Steve Clark (Con) 3,075, Serena Craigie (Lab) 1,956, Margaret Hason (LD) 406, Maxim Lowe (UKIP) 1,141, Lawrence Frowlett (Green) 461  
 Con gain

**Wordsley**  
 William Cody (Lab) 2,071, John Mac- Leod (UKIP) 1,623, Catherine Maguire (Green) 161, Matt Rogers (Con) 3,057  
 Con hold



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## COMPETITION

# Flying high with chance to win tickets

READERS have a chance to take off to the RAF Cosford Air Show – for free! The Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to give eight readers the chance to win a pair of adult tickets to the spectacular show on Sunday, June 14.

As well as more than five hours of exciting flying displays including a joint Spitfire/Typhoon display, and of course the world famous Red Arrows the show will include ground exhibits from the Royal Air Force and other services and three hangars full of exciting interactive displays and exhibitions.

Along with the chance to sit in the cockpit of the iconic Jaguar aircraft, still based at RAF Cosford, there will be a unique line-up of Search and Rescue helicopters and the iconic TSR

2 jet. The flying displays will feature the best of the modern day Royal Air Force, classic aircraft and set pieces and will also pay tribute to other special anniversaries including the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, the 90th Anniversary of the University Air Squadrons and the 50th Anniversary of the cancellation of the TSR 2 prototype supersonic aircraft.

RAF Cosford is the largest aviation event in the Midlands and is renowned for the huge variety of attractions on the ground with an indoor craft fair, funfair and this year an exciting 'Victory Village' authentically recreating a village green street party in 1945.

All tickets for the 2015 show will be advance sale only and all profits are donated to local and service charities. Details on [www.cosfordairshow.co.uk](http://www.cosfordairshow.co.uk)



Plenty to see on the ground as well as in the air including the 'Victory Village'



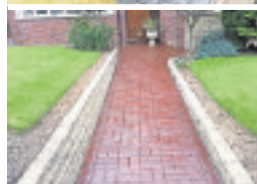
### HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question

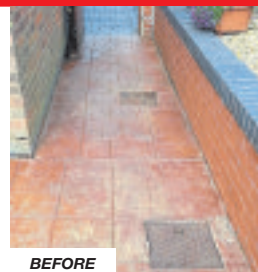
How many years ago was the TSR 2 program cancelled?

a) 70 b) 90 c) 50  
Send your entries to RAF competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, May 21. Usual rules apply

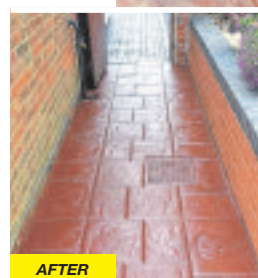
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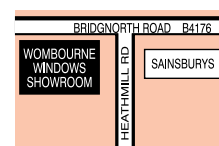
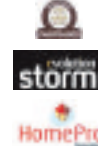
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# Helping to protect your family's future

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**WE want our members and their families' futures to be protected.**

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But have you thought about securing that future?

Here at Dudley Building Society we want our members and their families' futures to be protected, which is why we are helping you to plan for the inevitable.

### Ensure

Dying Matters Awareness Week is a national campaign that runs from May 18-24 and is a good way to ensure that your last wishes are put in place and that your family is protected after you are no longer here.

To support the campaign we have partnered up with The Will Writing Company who are offering £50 towards the cost of a Will or any other legal service\*.

They will be on hand in our branches offering all customers help and advice on how they can ensure the financial security of your family after you pass.

Our designated will writing and estate planning group advisor will be on hand to sit down and have a chat, offering advice on wills, power of attorney, care fees and much more.

Visit our branches on the following



**Come along to one of the branches for helpful advice**

days to take advantage of this opportunity and see if we can help you to secure a future for your family.

Stourbridge: Friday, May 22  
Kingswinford: Saturday, May 23

Dudley: Monday, May 18  
Perton: Tuesday, May 19  
Gornal: Wednesday, May 20  
Brierley Hill  
and Kingswinford: Thursday, May 21

You can find out more about our Will Writing and Estate Planning Services by visiting our website, or alternatively you can speak to a member of our team on 01384 231414. \*See website for full terms and conditions

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Preparing for your family's future is an important step to take, especially when you are no longer there to take care of them. Which is why Dudley Building Society are supporting Dying Matters Awareness Week to ensure you know the facts and can start safeguarding your loved ones early.

### 18th-24th May 5 simple steps

- Write your Will
- Record your funeral wishes
- Plan your future care and support
- Consider registering as an organ donor
- Tell your loved ones your wishes

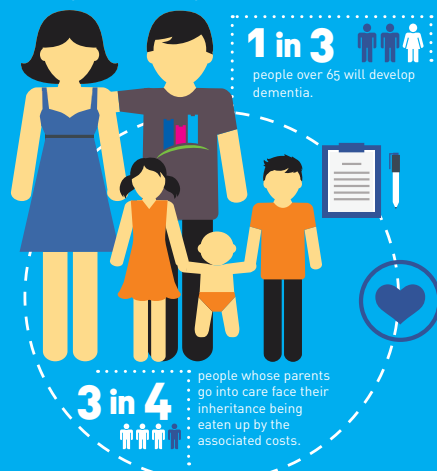
During the Week we will be encouraging members to take part in five simple steps to make things easier for you and your loved ones towards the later stages of life.

only **24%** of the UK population have a Will which is fit for purpose.

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## Speaker's family link is explored

MyTime Over Fifties

THE April meeting heard a talk from Nigel Metcalfe entitled "The Man who Mapped the Arctic" - Sir George Back.

Mr Metcalfe's interest in Sir George arose while tracing his family tree. He discovered Sir George was fourth great grand uncle on his father's side.

Sir George was a naval officer who helped in the mapping of the Canadian Arctic with John Franklin. In 1808, during the Napoleonic wars, he enlisted, aged 12, as a volunteer into the navy on board HMS Arethusa. He was captured by the French in April 1809 and remained as a prisoner of war in Verdun until 1814.

During this time he was taught French, navigation skills, maths and developed his artistic skills, all of which helped prepare him for his life ahead.

Following the end of the Napoleonic wars, the hunt was on for the North West Passage around Canada. Sir George took part in five expeditions to find, explore and map the Canadian northern coast. During his last expedition his ship was trapped in pack ice for nearly 10 months. Because of the hardships endured his health deteriorated. In 1839 he was knighted and became involved with the Royal Geographical society to maintain a lifelong interest in Arctic exploration.

The next meeting is on May 27 at 2pm in the Ambleside Room at Stourbridge Town Hall and will feature an "Afternoon of Chocolate" with Ms Jackie Smith.

## Spotlight falls on ironmaster and MP



James Foster was the topic of the talk

THE Society meets at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford.

The speaker at the May meeting was Roy Peacock who talked about James Foster, the Stourbridge Ironmaster.

He was a partner in John Bradley and Co and formed the Foster, Restrict Co that became famous for building The Agenoria, the steam locomotive that ran on the Kingswinford Railway, not far from where the evening's meeting was held and also the Stourbridge Lion, the first steam locomotive to run in the USA.

Foster became an MP in 1830, although



The steam locomotive Agenoria

**Kingswinford and District Historical Society**

he never spoke in the House of Commons. He was known as a good employer and was responsible for building Stourbridge Town hall and Ambleside Church.

The next historical society meeting is on Monday, June 1 when Max Keen, suitably attired, will talk about The Battle of Agincourt.

All are welcome, further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

## Members taken round world

CHAIRMAN Mrs V Wright welcomed 21 members and one visitor to the April meeting.

The meeting progressed as usual with the reading and signing of the minutes of the previous meeting. Treasurer Mrs L James gave her report.

Mrs V Raybould had information from the federation.

Quarry Bank E TG

The recent art and craft display was very successful and a member of the federation will be going to the AGM at Glasgow to represent the West Midlands TG.

Social Secretary Mrs M Writtle gave information regarding the visit to The

Lodge. The speaker was Alan Hill, on Around the World. This was a very interesting talk, illustrated with slides, including Hong Kong, Australia, Hawaii and San Francisco.

The meeting concluded with the serving of tea and biscuits.

The May 19 meeting will include a Bring and Buy.

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# Community centre parties mark golden anniversary

UKULELE music heralded a golden anniversary for a community centre which is used by hundreds of people each week.

Kingswinford Community Centre has marked its 50th anniversary at its site in Market Street.

A range of community groups and organisations use the popular venue. The biggest group, a branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), has around 500 members and hosts a range of classes at the centre.

There are around 20 sections of the branch including clubs for ukulele, curling, old movies, history, wine, dance, slimming and music appreciation.

Ukulele group the Kingswinford and District Strummers staged a concert for 160 guests over two weekends.

The shows also featured the U3A's guitar group and Blake May performing monologues to delight the gathered audience.

Community centre management committee member Ken Tromans, aged 80, of Kingswinford, said the events were a fitting way to mark the anniversary.

"It was a brilliant to see so many people come along. The nights were really good. It is good to see the centre as part of the community. It is vibrant."



KCA chairman John Aston, centre, with Ken Tromans, left, and Eric Henry of Kingswinford Strummers

# Music nights at farm are in aid of charities

TWO nights of live music are planned at a village to help raise money for charities.

The Musica15 event is taking place in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, on July 10 and 11. Money raised by the event will go to the Midlands Air Ambulance, Sunfield Children's Home and Belbroughton Animal Sanctuary.

A parade of the Royal British Legion standards with the Northfield Caledonian Pipe and Drum Band will be held alongside performances from Elliot Hinton and a Rod Stewart tribute act on July 10. The following night Hagley RC School Rock Band and Blind Lemon, a Blues Brothers tribute, will be performing.

Both nights are at Church Farm, in Bradford Lane. The concert starts at 7pm on the Friday and 7.30pm on the Saturday. Tickets are £15 per person or £25 for a two night pass. Call 01562 730539 or 07547 110187 or email rogerandgaye@compuserve.com.

# Brierley Hill wheelchair group takes over rival

THE makers of the wheelchairs for Great Britain's paralympic basketball team has been bought by a Black Country firm in a multi-million pound deal.

Founded more than a quarter of a century ago by former paralympian Greg Eden and wheelchair basketball player Russel Simms, Burntwood-based RGK has grown into one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of bespoke wheelchairs.

Mr Simms and Mr Eden, who were both left disabled by car crashes, met as wheelchair basketball internationals. They drew on their experience to design lightweight made-to-measure wheelchairs for sport use.

The company makes wheelchairs for athletes across the world, including the Union Jack chairs used by GB's paralympic basketball team at the London Olympics in 2012.

RGK now makes around 1,500 chairs a year at its Burntwood factory, where it employs 40 and has turnover in excess of £3m a year. It has been bought for an undisclosed sum by Brierley Hill-based Sunrise Medical to become part of the bigger company's sports product arm.

It is understood Greg Eden has resigned as a director following the deal but Russel Simms is staying on as RGK's commercial director.

Sunrise Medical also makes custom-designed wheelchairs, including an electrically-powered range. It has sold thousands of chairs to the NHS and

By Simon Penfold

wheelchair dealers since developing its Quickie Salsa M chair in 2010.

The Brierley Hill operation, which employs around 150, is part of a German-based group with 1,800 employees at facilities in the UK, Mexico, the US, Spain and China.

Sunrise Medical says the takeover will keep it at the front of the world's top end sports wheelchair market, adding to its existing Quickie and Sopur wheelchairs.

Rio

Thomas Rossnagel, CEO at Sunrise Medical, said: "RGK is a great addition to our family of brands.

"Personally, I am very excited about the prospect of a united RGK and Sunrise Medical, especially leading up to the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

RGK has a strong and dedicated team of people headed up by an excellent management team who will continue to run the business with the new support, resources, and experience we have at our disposal."

# Tennis club holds court at open day

PEOPLE can pick up a racket and try their skills on the tennis court at a club's charity open day. Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club is taking part in the Great British Tennis event on Saturday.

The club will be hosting a family fun day for all between 10am and 4pm. Money raised from the event will be going to Mary Stevens Hospice. In addition to regular classes and academies, there will be a variety of activities including a fastest serve competition and mini-tennis sessions. A barbecue will be open from noon to 3pm.

Club chairman Sarah Davis said: "It is an ideal opportunity for people to come along and have a look at the excellent facilities the club has to offer, whilst helping to raise money for a very worthwhile local charity."

The club has 14 tennis courts, six squash courts, a gym and club house. See [www.stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk](http://www.stourbridge-tennis-squash.co.uk) for details.

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<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£999</b>	<b>STEED TOWCESTER</b> Classical small sofa, easy chair & scatterers 75% OFF TO CLEAR! Was <b>£4069</b> Save <b>£3070</b>	<b>TCS CAMILE</b> Large sofa with twin jumbo powered recliners & recliner chair in IT cream leather 55% OFF TO CLEAR! Was <b>£3580</b> Save <b>£1981</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£1599</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£99</b>	<b>MORRIS PALOMA</b> Model MER105 light oak nest 60% OFF TO CLEAR! Was <b>£249</b> Save <b>£150</b>	<b>NOLTE SALERNO</b> Tall 5 draw chest 70% OFF TO CLEAR! Was <b>£549</b> Save <b>£385</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£164</b>
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## Full English farewell is flawless

**The Full English Town Hall, Birmingham**  
AMID the songs about cannibalism and disastrous weddings there was a hint of sadness about the gathering of The Full English in the Second City. Partly because it would be the last time they would play the superb venue as a group and partly because there were only three more gigs left in their farewell tour.

The group was put together by

musician and academic Fay Hield to promote the Full English database, an online resource of nearly 60,000 items of folk music and British musical heritage.

Hield, Martin Simpson, Seth Lakeman, Nancy Kerr, Sam Sweeney, Rob Harbron and Ben Nicholls showed how the music and information available could be turned into exquisite tunes.

They opened with Awake Awake

with Hield providing the strong and sharp lead vocals helped along wonderfully by Kerr and the full ensemble. Among the offerings were Simpson's Creeping Jane and Lakeman's William & Nancy.

As you would expect with a stage filled with experts in their respective instruments the music was flawless and the fantastic acoustics in the ornate building did their sound justice.

**Danny Farragher**

## Not Rotten but show is no classic

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, New Alexandra**

THIS eager-to-please comedy-musical won over audiences at Birmingham, despite unfamiliarity with its songs.

Based on a 1980s movie and on tour with a new cast after a year in the West End, it worked best as a comedy. It packed in gags both witty and rude in a story about conniving cheating rich women on the French Riviera. Former Robin of Sherwood actor Michael Praed shone as the vain and deonair older fraudster, while ex-Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan stole lots of scenes as his crude younger rival.

The songs, in a variety of styles, seemed designed as vehicles for humorous lyrics rather than memorable tunes.

Mark Benton, using dancing skills picked up in Strictly Come Dancing, gave likeable support as a crooked French police chief with 'Allo 'Allo accent. Holyoaks actress Carley Stenson had star quality as the scamsters' intended victim. The show is on to Saturday.

**Leon Burakowski**

## REVIEWS



Jessie Hart and Lewis Kirk star in Dirty Dancing at Birmingham Hippodrome until May 23

## Audiences having the time of their lives with Dirty delight

**Dirty Dancing, Birmingham Hippodrome**  
FOR those who missed the tour of the stage adaptation of the cult classic Dirty Dancing last summer, there is still a chance to catch the show as it shimmies into the Hippodrome until May 23.

Baby Houseman's feminist dreams are challenged on a family holiday when she falls in love with dance teacher Johnny Castle. It would be considered sacrilege to tamper with the original script but fans can rest easy knowing that director Sarah Tiple has stuck rigidly to the tried and tested format, to produce the perfect version of the movie as a piece of live theatre.

The show is all about the dancing and this superbly entertaining cast display extraordinary technique throughout, offering the audience the Time of Their Lives from the opening to one of the best loved finales.

It is wonderful to see local lass, Jessie Hart from Wall Heath, play the iconic role of Baby to absolute perfection, bringing just the right mixture of innocence and allure to her performance. She certainly had chemistry with Lewis Kirk as Johnny. Claire Rogers gives a mesmerising performance as Penny, almost stealing the show with her dance moves, not to mention the longest legs in the business!

**Alison Norton**

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# It's a moving farewell to Burma Star hero Walter



Members of the Royal British Legion lead the hearse into Gornal Wood Crematorium for the funeral of veteran Walter Carr

**THE life of a Black Country war hero, who received the Burma Star medal for his service in the Second World War, was remembered at his funeral.**

Walter Carr, who died aged 96, was given a big send-off at Gornal Wood crematorium, with representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Burma Star Association attending.

Mr Carr, who was raised in Church Lane, Tipton, was in the Royal Marines from 1939 to 1945 when he served in Burma and the Middle East.

His son Stephen, 65, who lives in Coleford Close, Wordsley, described his father as a family man with a passion for politics, who was also a huge fan of singer Shirley Bassey.

The Burma Star medal was received for his service in the brutal Burma campaign against the forces of Imperial Japan.

## Union

After leaving the military, Mr Carr worked at the Austin car plant in Longbridge and later worked at Brymill Foundry, where he was active in the steelworkers' union.

He is also survived by two daughters who live in Canada.



Royal Marine Walter Carr

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## Club's Mini show is a major success



Winner of the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini, Paddy Hopkirk, at the British Mini Club Show held at Himley Hall

A MINI show was really motoring after attracting one of  
its best turnouts at the weekend.

The British Mini Club staged the event at Himley Hall,  
near Dudley, and it was attended by 2,000 Mini enthusiasts.  
There were more than 300 cars on display.

Dave Hollis, a member of the club's Midlands branch,

said: "It was very good. We were very pleased. It was prob-  
ably the best weather we have had for about five years."

Among special guests was 82-year-old Paddy Hopkirk,  
who won the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini Cooper S  
with Henry Liddon.

The show featured a premier class concours competition.

## Concern over quarry plan

**DEVELOPERS** behind a mari-  
na plan at a South Stafford-  
shire village near Himley are  
now considering creating a  
sand and gravel quarry.

Up to 296,000 tons of sand and  
gravel could be extracted from the  
22-acre site over a two year pro-  
ject, under proposals for a site at  
Swindon.

MHJ Limited has applied to look  
into the extraction of sand and gravel  
at the site off High Street.

A maximum of 50 lorry journeys in  
an out of the site have been requested  
as part of the plans tabled to Stafford-  
shire County Council.

Lorries would access the quarry  
during a five day week stated in docu-  
ments to the council by developer  
MHJ Limited.

A planning condition attached to the

marina permission prevented develop-  
ers from removing minerals.

Gordon Fanthom, of Hinksford Gar-  
dens, has raised his concerns over the  
potential impact on the village.

"It is completely different from  
what the original planning permission  
was, which was for the sand and gravel  
to be spread around on site and not  
have any trucks coming through the  
village," he said. "It will totally devas-  
tate that area."

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## Expert adds value for church funds



Antique expert Mark Hannam from Fieldings Auctioneers and TV's Flog It takes a close look to value a jug

AUCTIONEER and TV celebrity Mark Hannam was at a Stourbridge church to value prized possessions brought in by members of the congregation.

A regular on BBC TV's Flog It!, Mr Hannam gave a talk at St Thomas's Church. The expert from Fieldings Auctioneers, in Stourbridge, took the time to talk about each item and to given an estimate on how much each item was worth. The church has been holding events to raise cash for its restoration work.

## Talk on Hagley restoration

A TALK on the restoration of Hagley Hall's park and gardens will be hosted by Clent Historical Society at Clent Parish Hall, in Church Avenue, on Thursday, May 21, at 8pm. Head of landscape at Hagley Hall, Joe Hawkins, will be the speaker. Contact Carole Hodgson on 01562 885759.

# Success for campaign to cut road congestion

**CAMPAIGNERS** fighting for improvements to a traffic-clogged junction in Woodsetton have won a major victory with action planned to solve the jams this summer.

The sequence of traffic lights at the junction of Parkes Hall Road and Sedgley Road will be changed in a bid to reduce the tailbacks.

Residents have complained about long queues during rush hours with traffic sometimes stretching back nearly a mile.

When more than one vehicle is waiting to turn right out of Parkes Hall Road, the carriageway becomes blocked as cars travelling straight ahead cannot pass those that are waiting to turn.

In a bid to cut the queuing, the lights will change from having a four-way cycle to a three-way cycle but there will also be a separate right-way only light for motorists coming from Parkes Hall Road.

Councillor Dean Perks, who represents Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, said the junction was 'a regular bottleneck for frustrated motorists'.

The changes will come

By Heather Large

into force in July when further work to resurface the junction will also take place.

Councillor Perks said: "Since getting elected last May I've worked to improve the lights at the Bramford. It's now been agreed the lights cycle will be changed to three way in July the same as those at the top of Eve Lane.

### Solution

These improvements are a simple solution to a long-standing issue. I am glad that our common sense suggestion for a three-way cycle is to be introduced."

Earlier this year, work was completed to upgrade a crossing on Sedgley Road following a campaign.

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## Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye



Four days departing August 14 and September 18



★ **PRICE FROM £279**

Take the opportunity to enjoy some of London's famous attractions, Buckingham Palace, London Eye and the Houses of Parliament, all on this 'capital' break away.

On the tour of Buckingham Palace step beyond the railings and sentry guards to explore the 19 magnificent State rooms. These form the heart of the working Palace and are used regularly by the Queen and members of the Royal family, each one lavishly furnished with some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection.

At the Houses of Parliament meet a blue badge guide for an included tour which features rooms such as the Queen's Robing room, the Royal Gallery and The Princes Chamber, as well as the Chamber of the House of Lords where the Throne can be seen.

At a staggering 135 metres the London Eye is the world's tallest cantilevered observation wheel. During the 30-minute, 360 degrees rotation there will be the chance to take in spectacular panoramic views of London and maybe spot some of it's famous landmarks, from a fully enclosed high tech glass capsule.

Also included are visits to Henley-on-Thames, a pretty riverside market town known the world over for its Royal Regatta, and Windsor with its spectacular castle (entrance payable locally) and Great Park, as well as free time in central London to shop or sightsee.

### INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Flight on the London Eye
- Visits to Royal Windsor and Henley-on-Thames
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Day trip and two-day trip to Buckingham Palace also offered  
Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing September 13

★ **PRICE FROM £199**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne bar, St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14

★ **PRICE FROM £189**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ticket for the performance of The Railway Children at York Railway Museum (*upgrade offered*)
- Visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford
- Journey on Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- Free time in York and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing September 18

★ **PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional excursion on North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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## The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 21 and 28

★ **PRICE FROM £299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two three course evening meals
- Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Circular cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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## In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion  
departing November 9, Feb 2 and 3, 2016

★ **PRICE FROM £199.<sup>95</sup>**

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by an astronomer
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights
- Light refreshments on board
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Services of a tour manager

Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings  
Organised by Omega Holidays (ATOL 6081)

## André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in London

Two days departing December 22

★ **PRICE FROM £195**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Ticket (*face value £40*) for André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in concert at Wembley Arena (*upgrades offered*)
- Return coach transfers from the hotel to Wembley
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

## Wimbledon

Two days departing July 11 and 12

★ **PRICE FROM £155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No. 1 court
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Make your own way breaks are also offered  
Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

## Afternoon Tea at The Houses of Parliament

Four days departing Aug 14, Sep 18, Oct 9

★ **PRICE FROM £299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Afternoon Tea in the Terrace Pavilion of the House of Commons
- Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Visits to Kenwood House, Kensington Palace and St Albans
- Visit to the Royal Air Force Museum, London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lake Garda

Eight days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £349**

- Return flights
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- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Krakow

Four days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £439**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tour of Krakow
- Visit to the castle district
- Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau (included but optional)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)





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– Page 21



**Clare Teal**  
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## Lulu



**Tuesday, 7pm**  
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 Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Desi Rockstars



**Saturday, 7.30pm**  
**Barclaycard Arena, B'ham**  
 For the first time in the UK, experience the Desi Rockstars tour! It will feature the Punjabi film and music superstar Gippy Grewal (pictured), and music superstar Sharry Mann.  
 Visit [www.barclaycardarena.co.uk](http://www.barclaycardarena.co.uk)

## Yamato Drummers



**Sunday, 7.30pm**  
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## Open Cockpits



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**RAF Cosford, Shifnal**  
 This exclusive evening will commence at 6pm with a wide range of aircraft available for closer viewing on the night including; transport aircraft, jet fighters and research airframes.  
 Visit [www.rafmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk)

## ROCK & POP

**Lulu**  
 Tue at 7pm, £28.50 - £45  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Don McLean - The American Troubadour**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £33.50 - £37.50  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Elio Pace performs**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £15 - £19  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Take That**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £61.20 - £94.20  
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Bryan Ferry**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £35 - £65  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**The Neil Diamond Story**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12 - £15.75  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Gin Annie Band**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £10  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Rock 4 Spon 4**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £6 - £7  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Cloudbusting**  
 Fri at 6.30pm, £13.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**InMe - Trilogy Tour 2015**  
 Fri at 7pm, £13.20  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

**Awake By Design**  
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**182 - Tribute to Blink 182**  
 Thu at 7pm, £6.60  
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**Jesse Malin**  
 Tue at 7pm, £13.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Ozric Tentacles**  
 Wed at 7pm, £16.87  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Alive & Kicking UK**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10  
 Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

**Quadrophonia Night**  
 Sat at 8pm, £14 - £16  
 Artrix, Sladeslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B15 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

**Marcia Griffiths & Friends**  
 Sat at 9pm, £30.93  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**J. Cole plus Pusha T, Jhene Aiko**  
 Fri at 7pm, £35.01 - £39.51  
 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

**Swervedriver**  
 Fri at 8pm, £7  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Slaves**  
 Mon at 7pm, £10.00 Adv  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

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**Traditional Music Sessions**  
 Sun at 8pm  
 Prince Of Wales, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.

**The Jigantics**  
 Fri at 8.30pm, £5  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS11 1DE. Call 01922 682018

**Lucy Spraggan**  
 Sat at 6pm, £14.50 Adv  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**  
 Wed at 7.45pm, £2  
 Pigot Arms, Pittingham, WV6 7BQ. Call 01902 700207

**CoCo & The Butterfields**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

**Brewood Acoustic Club Singers' Night**  
 Thu at 8pm, £2 (£21 singers)  
 Brewood Cricket Club, ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

**Tom Paxton - 50 Years On**  
 Sat, Sun at 7.30pm, £26.50  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**Breabach**  
 Sat at 8pm, £10 - £12  
 mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Paul Lamb & The Detroit Breakdown**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**The Harp Live Jazz (May)**  
 Sun at 12pm - 2.30pm, Free  
 The Harp Hotel, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF. Call 01902 374381

## RNB & SOUL

**Clare Maguire**  
 Fri at 8pm, £7  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

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**Desi Rockstars - Live In Concert**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £33 - £113.20  
 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

**A Night at the Oscars**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £14  
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

**Clare Teal**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

**CBSO Parsifal**  
 Sun at 3pm, £25 - £55  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Takács Quartet**  
 Tue at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £35  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**Dirty Dancing**  
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Sex in Suburbia**  
 Sat, Sun at 7.30pm, £18 - £24.90  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

**Something Else**  
 Fri at 11am, £5  
 Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**Ghost**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £21.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**Twelve Angry Men**  
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £10.50 - £27  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**Pygmalion**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £12  
 The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

**Yamato Drummers**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £16.90 - £30.90  
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

**Judy - The Judy Garland Story**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12.90 - £38.90  
 New Alex, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

**The Rise And Fall of Little Voice**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Mon, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Thu at 2pm, £7 - £35  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40  
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

**The Long Road**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £6 - £11  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

**Kiss Me Kate**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £13 - £16  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

**Blood**  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 8pm, £8.50 - £13.75  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Chewing The Fat**  
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, £9 - £15  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Cardboard Citizens: Benefit**  
 Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12  
 mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

**Births, Deaths and Marriages**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £4 - £6  
 Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**Birmingham Cabaret Festival**  
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, Wed, Thu at 8pm, £10  
 The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY. Call 0121 200 1892

**Grimethorpe Colliery Band 2015**  
 Sun at 3pm, £21.40 - £22.40  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

## DANCE

**35th Anniversary Gala**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10.50 - £58  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

**Edge15**  
 Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

## COMEDY

**An Evening with Pam Ayres**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Thu at 7.30pm, £23 - £23.75  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**An Evening with Gervase Phinn**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £19.50  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**Henning Wehn: EINS, ZWEI, DRY**  
 Sat at 8pm, £16 - £17  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**Acorns Comedy Fundraiser**  
 Wed at 6.15pm, £40  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

## OTHER EVENTS

**Big Fat Quiz Night!**  
 Thu at 5pm, Free  
 Subside Bar, Paradise Place, Birmingham, B3 3HJ. Call 0121 212 0211

**The Quiz**  
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**Open Cockpits Evening**  
 Fri, Sat at 6pm - 9pm, £10 - £12.50  
 Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP. Call 01902 376 200

**The Baby Show with madeformums.com**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm  
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**The Robin 2 Record & CD Fair**  
 Sun at 11am - 4pm, Free  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Big noise from the Black Country

THE latest big noise out of the Black Country, drum and guitar duo God Damn, will unleash their pure attacking sound in Birmingham on Saturday night — just days after the release of their debut album *Vultures*.

Wolverhampton's Thom Edward (guitars/vocals) and Ash Weaver (drums) describe themselves as 'rock music for degenerates' with bludgeoning riffs and furiously propulsive percussion.

The band began life in the Black Country as a three-piece, until bassist and founder Dave Copson dropped out due to health reasons. But the duo already have plans to expand into a three-piece again and maybe even beyond that.

They will be in concert on Saturday at the Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway, celebrating the release of their fearsome debut on One Little Indian, Bjork's label, this week.

The title track — described as 'ferocious' — will be released as a single on May 25.

God Damn's influences include Nirvana, The Pixies and At The Drive In, whilst they swear allegiance to the 'Seven J's' — Hendrix, Homme, Cash, White, Page, Bonham and Jesse 'The Devil' Hughes, of Eagles of Death Metal.

Their set up has naturally drawn comparisons with Royal Blood and Slaves. They have played shows with the latter, as well as Funeral For A Friend, The Wytches, Eagulls and Turbowolf, among others.



Wolverhampton hard rock duo God Damn, Thom (right) and Ash

"We're a noisy band — we're probably the noisiest band in Britain right now but you can't have heaviness without the lighter touch. Dynamics are important," says Thom.

They described their album *Vultures* as "everything we hoped for and so much more".

"Broadly speaking, the album explores lyrical themes such as egotism, anti-capitalism, loss," says Thom. "It's important to write each new song different from the last."

"Angry and abrasive is good but you can't do that all the time or you'll go mad."

## Singer gets Doris's vote

FORMER Wolverhampton student Clare Teal and her Hollywood Orchestra celebrate Doris Day with a tribute to the living legend at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Yorkshire jazz singer Clare will be revisiting Doris's professional life, from her early days with Les Brown and his Band of Renown to her massive hit songs when Queen of Hollywood and her pop success in the 1960s.

Songs include *Secret Love*, *Move Over Darling*, *Deadwood Stage* and *Que Sera Sera*. "I've been a big fan of the great lady's from being a tiny tot," says Clare.

### Parcel

"I was selling CDs after a gig in Clacton when a smartly dressed woman asked me to sign the CD she had just bought, 'of course, who's it for love?' The answer: Doris Day. I looked up thinking, really — in Clacton? I signed the CD and went on my merry way. Months later I had an email from Annie of Clacton to say Doris had enjoyed my record. A lovely parcel arrived in the post containing a signed CD from Doris herself. This now takes pride of place in the office."

Doris, now 91, lives in retirement in Carmel, California, dedicating much of her energy to animal welfare projects.

Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's *Big Band Special*. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with *Big Band Special* for 11 years. See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 780 3333 for tickets.



**'A big fan of the great lady's since a tiny tot'**

### Ghost melodies unchained again

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society are staging a much-loved movie turned musical this week at Wolverhampton's Grand.

WBOS opened with *Ghost The Musical* last night (Wednesday), based on the Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore movie, and it continues to Saturday. There are 7.30pm performances plus a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

The show includes classic scenes from the film about a loving couple not being separated by death thanks to a dodgy psychic.

A spokesperson said: "Our aim as an amateur company has been to continue performing in professional theatres and to keep the standard of productions as high as possible."

### Classic courtroom drama at the Grand

AMERICAN courtroom drama *Twelve Angry Men* stars popular TV actor Jason Merrells as the righteous Juror 8 at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Reginald Rose's play became a movie classic with Henry Fonda in 1957. The revival was a hit at Birmingham Rep with Martin Shaw returning to his home city to play Juror 8. It has since been a West End success with Shaw and Tom Conti.

Jason Merrells, a star of *Casualty* and *Waterloo Road* before becoming *Emmerdale* villain Declan Macey, plays the one juror pitted against 11 with a life at stake.

### Totally wired for alt-rock veterans

ALTERNATIVE rock veterans The Fall, the late great John Peel's favourite band, are in concert tonight (Thursday) at Birmingham venue The Institute. The band fronted by Mark E Smith released their 31st album, *Sub-Lingual Tablet*, on Cherry Red Records on Monday.

Founder Smith is the one constant since the band started in Manchester in 1976. The Fall is known for his distinctive vocals, cryptic lyrics and unique sound.

Other gigs include a sell-out by Slaves at The Institute, Digbeth, on Monday and Jesse Malin at O2 Academy 3 on Tuesday with new album *New York Before The War*.



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Unspoiled beaches, such as this one at Porto Katsiki, is one of the main attractions



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Stunning views are guaranteed

# Lefkas – this is the relaxing, unspoilt holiday area that you dream about

**ASIDE** from the hum of cicadas, punctuated by the odd dog barking and cockerel crowing, it's completely silent.

It's the same on the empty roads, where all the signs are in a foreign language, with very few of the customary English translations you so often expect to see in this part of the world.

There are no sprawling resorts and strips of neon nightclubs, just picture-perfect towns occupied by a few tavernas, shops and hotels. It's a far cry from the stereotypical image of a Greek getaway. Lefkas might be the fourth largest Ionian Island, but it's the unspoilt stuff of your dreams.

Our accommodation is the perfect example of the trademark seclusion of Lefkas. From our private poolside terrace, we can sit with a glass of the local wine, enjoying

By Ellen Manning

views of the capital, Lefkas Town, and across the water to the mainland.

With the nearest neighbour a few hundred metres away, and the pool hidden from view, it's the perfect place to relax. But it's not just the peace and quiet that makes Lefkas different from other islands.

## Freedom

Just 21 miles long and nine miles wide, Lefkas – which some people also refer to as Lefkada – was a peninsula of Arcanania until it was split by a 28m canal excavated by the Corinthians in 640BC. Now you come and go across a swing-bridge that joins the mainland to the island, enjoying the feeling and culture of being on a Greek island with the freedom to easily explore further afield. Not that there isn't plenty to do on Lefkas.

Divided by the towering Mount Stavratos, each corner of the island has its own character – from the sheltered east coast with family-friendly beaches, to the crashing waves and steep cliffs of the dramatic west coast, with luscious rolling countryside dotted with deserted windmills and watermills in between.

It's here, inland, where you can really soak up the unbelievably slow pace.

Kavalos, the sleepy hamlet where our windmill lies, is the perfect example. From morning to evening, nothing seems to change, except the addition of a few Greek men outside what appears to be a bar.

The island's capital is far from a bustling metropolis. We accidentally arrive during siesta and wander around the narrow streets, thinking we're in one of those films where the whole world has suddenly disappeared. The low-key nature of the island

brings its own low-key tourist attractions.

Near to the windmill, we hunt for the Melissa Gorge, a small gorge opened up by the local authority and given a paved route running past ruined watermills and windmills. After three days of searching we finally find it, directed on a tiny road sign.

On the other side of the island, just outside the tourist resort of Nidri, a picturesque harbour filled with boats clamouring to take people on tours of the nearby tiny islands, are the Rachi waterfalls. Not on Niagara levels, more a slow trickle.

Boating is the start of quite a lot of water-orientated action on Lefkas. The southern resort of Vassiliki is internationally recognised as one of the leading windsurfing resorts in Europe. And then there's the beaches. A tour of the famous west coast takes in some of the most impressive sights such as Kathisma Beach and Porto Katsiki.

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CHOICE



Alexander Armstrong

**Pointless Celebrities**  
**BBC1, 6.10pm**  
Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman host another star-studded round of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time with a 'British Film' theme. The celebrities aiming to come up with obscure answers this time are Quadrophena stars Phil Daniels and Leslie Ash, Trainspotting and Shallow Grave actor Keith Allen, Gregory's Girl actress Clare Grogan, Mean Machine's Vas Blackwood, This is England's Thomas Turgoose, comedian, impressionist and screenwriter Phil Cornwell and Sally Thomsett, who played the youngest Waterbury sibling, Phyllis, in the 1970 adaptation of The Railway Children.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Athletics. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. With Mark Thompson, Cheryl Baker, Guy Henry and Timothy Bentinck. (R) **5.50** BBC News.  
**6.00** **Regional Programme.**  
**6.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman challenge actors from classic British films, including Phil Daniels, Leslie Ash and Thomas Turgoose, to take part in the unorthodox quiz show.  
**7.00** **Atlantis.** Double bill. Jason is determined to rescue his fellow prisoners from the amphitheatre, and makes a daring return to Atlantis, which is becoming an ever more dangerous realm under Pasiphae's villainous rule. The hero and his friends face treachery at every turn, and come to realise that the only hope for the future is to kill the queen. Jack Donnelly stars. Last in the series.  
**8.30** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** New series. Dale Winton returns with the big-cash quiz show. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Kate Garraway, and a performance by Ella Eyre.  
**9.20** **Casualty.** Charlie goes to Bucharest with Connie to find his missing son. Comedy starring Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney and Sean Pertwee.  
**10.10** **BBC News:** Weather.  
**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Queens Park Rangers v Newcastle United and Sunderland v Leicester City; National Lottery Update.  
**11.55** **Live at the Apollo.** Hal Cruttenden hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Justin Moorhouse and Tom Stace. (R)  
**12.25** **Film:** The 51st State. (2001) Action comedy, with Samuel L Jackson and Robert Carlyle. **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.20** Animal Park. (R) **6.50** **Film:** In Search of the Castaways. (1962) **8.30** **Film:** The Charge of the Light Brigade. (1968) **10.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.05** Living Famously. (R) **1.05** **Film:** Rope. (1948) Hitchcock thriller, with Farley Granger and John Dall. **2.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.05** **Film:** North By Northwest. (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant. **5.20** Flog It! (R)  
**6.50** **Gardeners' World.** (R)  
**7.00** **Modern Times: The Great British Garden Watch.** Documentary about a new breed of amateur naturalists who go to extreme lengths to capture the secret lives of the animals in their gardens. (R)  
**7.50** **Britain's Greatest Generation.** The united spirit of the Second World War, which saw women adopt roles previously filled by men, and rescue workers and volunteers risk all to save those injured in the Blitz. (R)  
**8.50** **Dad's Army.** With the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard now established, Captain Mainwaring sets about trying to get equipment for the platoon. (R)  
**9.20** **Film: Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa.** (2013) Premiere. The hapless local radio DJ ends up in the centre of a crisis when a colleague gets fired by the station's new owners, only to respond by returning to the studio with a shotgun and taking hostages. The police enlist Alan's aid as a negotiator, giving him the chance to revive his own flagging public profile. Comedy starring Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney and Sean Pertwee.  
**10.45** **Rory Bremner's Election Report.** The impressionist is joined by John Bird, Matt Forde and Sara Pascoe to reflect on the events of the general election and look forward to what lies ahead. (R)  
**11.15** **5W1A.** David Wilkes seeks help in fleshing out the concept for new show One Big Family, and new Head of Inclusivity Lucy Freeman tries to 'vitalize' Muslim BBC Weather. Last in the series. (R)  
**11.45** **Film: In the Loop.** (2009) A witless government minister gets out of his depth in international politics after suggesting a war is imminent. Satirical comedy, starring Peter Capaldi.  
**1.30** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.40** **Film:** Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.  
**6.00** **New You've Been Framed! Hall of Framed.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of some of the funniest clips featured on the show to celebrate the series' 25th anniversary. Featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokes and painful-looking accidents.  
**7.00** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the first semi-final of the nationwide endurance contest, giving past winners a chance to return to the obstacle course for a chance to once again tackle the heights of Mount Midoriyama – and claim the title of Ninja Warrior UK.  
**8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon preside over proceedings as the hunt for Britain's next star entertainer reaches the sixth round of auditions. Ant and Dec are on hand to introduce the acts, and to congratulate or commiserate with them once the judges have passed their verdict.  
**9.20** **Play to the Whistle.** Guests AP McCoy, Jonathan Ross and Brooke Vincent join Holly Willoughby and her regular panellists for another edition of the sports-based comedy panel show.  
**10.05** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**10.20** **Film: The Break-Up.** (2006) A couple's relationship comes to an end, but neither wants to give up their home, forcing them to carry on living together. Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston.  
**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Tarawera Ultra Marathon. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party from Northampton. (R)  
**6.40** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **Cornwall: Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson takes a four-day trek along the coastline between Plymouth in Devon and Falmouth, learning about the thriving smuggling trade in Cornwall during the late 18th century. The area's tiny secretive harbours, beaches and secluded coves were ideal for illicit imports such as tobacco and brandy, and the business was so huge it threatened the national economy. Last in the series. (R)  
**8.00** **The World's Most Extreme.** An exploration of the most unusual airports on the planet, including a runway squeezed between skyscrapers and a landing strip carved into mountains.  
**9.00** **Film: The Hunger Games.** (2012) A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must put her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jennifer Lawrence.  
**11.50** **Film: Underworld: Awakening.** (2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a human plot to annihilate the undead. Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale and India Eisley.  
**1.30** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) **5.30** The Common Denominator. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.30** Britain's Horror Homes. (R) **12.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.25** **Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **3.55** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **4.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.50** 5 News Weekend. **5.55** Police Interference. (R)  
**6.45** **Film: Spider-Man 3.** (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to contend with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps – and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco. Edited to reduce violence, flashing images and end credits.  
**9.20** **Big Brother: Timebomb.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.  
**10.20** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A teenager is found dead in a public toilet, and an image on his phone leads the team to the perpetrator of a crime lab director, who both seem to have been abducted by the killer.  
**11.15** **NCIS.** The murder of a marine's wife is shown live on the internet and inquiries point to two housewives who were running their own pornographic website, but have since vanished. (R)  
**12.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. (R) **4.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Presenters Dave Spiky and Zoe Lyons introduce a second compilation of the internet's most popular cat videos. With animal behaviour therapist Professor Peter Neville. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Top Gear. **8.00** How to Win Eurovision. **10.00** Happy Valley. **11.00** Family Guy. **1.15** Murder in Successville. **1.45** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment. **2.15** Bluestone 42. **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth. **4.00** Close  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures. **8.00** Wild Arabia. **9.00** 1864. **11.00** Queen: Days of Our Lives. **12.00** Metal at the BBC. **12.30** Guitar Heroes at the BBC. **1.30** Wild Arabia. **2.30** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures. **3.30** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.15** Britain's Got Talent. **12.35** Britain's Got More Talent. **1.35** Catchphrase. **2.20** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990). **4.30** Mr Bean. **5.40** Film: King Kong (2005). **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent. **10.20** Celebrity Juice. **11.05** Britain's Got Talent. **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent. **1.20** Hell's Kitchen. **2.55** Teleshopping. **5.55** ITV2. Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.30** Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982). **2.50** Wycliffe. **3.55** Film: Columbo: Etude in Black (1972). **6.00** Lewis. **8.00** Doc Martin. **9.00** Foyle's War. **11.00** Inspector Morse. **1.20** Wire in the Blood. **2.15** ITV3. Nightscreen. **3.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.45** Pawn Stars. **1.05** Gunsmoke. **2.15** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952). **4.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. **5.50** Pawn Stars. **8.00** Storage Wars: New York. **7.00** Shed and Buried. **8.00** Film: Thunderball (1965). **10.45** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994). **12.50** Film: Bowfinger (1999). **2.25** Tommy Cooper. **2.50** ITV4. Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Baby Daddy. **12.00** New Girl. **1.00** The Goldbergs. **2.00** How I Met Your Mother. **2.55** Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002). **5.00** Made in Chelsea. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: She's All That (1999). **11.00** Soggybox. **12.00** The Inbetweeners. **1.10** Tube: Mash'd 'n' Mixed. **2.15** 2 Broke Girls. **2.40** How I Met Your Mother. **3.25** Rules of Engagement. **3.50** New Girl. **4.40** Make It or Break It  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Appointment in London (1952). **1.00** Rio (2011). **2.50** Flash Gordon (1980). **5.00** City of Ember (2008). **6.50** Definitely, Maybe (2008). **9.00** The A-Team (2010). **11.20** The Raid (2011). **1.20** Mirrors (2008). **3.35** Close

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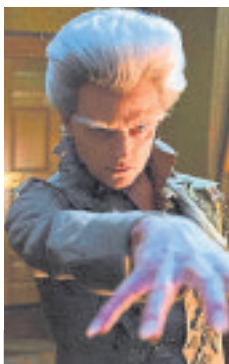
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## CHOICE



Marc Warren

**Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell**  
**BBC1, 9pm**  
New series. At the beginning of the 19th century, the world no longer believes in magic - until the reclusive Mr Norrell stuns the people of York by making statues surrounding the city's cathedral speak and move. Meanwhile, the rich and charming Jonathan Strange, more interested in wine and women than reading dusty old books, discovers that he too has magical powers. As the duo's stories intertwine, they embark on a fantastic journey involving mystical creatures, the reanimation of the dead and war with Napoleon's French Empire. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Marc Warren.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00 BBC News. Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.55 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **2.55 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.25 Shark. 4.25 Lifestile. 4.35 Points of View. 4.50 Songs of Praise - School Choir of the Year. 5.35 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015.**

**6.35 BBC News.**

**6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Countryfile.** Anita Rani returns to her home town of Bradford to explore the rural gems on her own doorstep and the journey that has been made for centuries from the urban sprawl to the fresh air of the nearby moors. She also presents archive items featuring stories where town meets country, including Matt Baker taking to the dizzying heights of the Avon Gorge in Bristol. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Barrington Court in Somerset, where discoveries include a toy Noah's Ark from the 1920s, an Elizabethan wine jug found at a car-boot sale and a £12 charity shop bracelet that dates back to the Victorian era. Among the other finds are a 16th-century silver cup constructed around a carved coconut, a vial of smelling salts with a mystery compartment and a collection of ceramic brewery figures that have seen better days.

**9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.** New series. The lives of two magicians become intertwined with the fate of 19th-century England. Fantasy based on Susanna Clarke's novel, starring Eddie Marsan and Bertie Carvel.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Manchester City and Manchester United v Arsenal.

**11.35 Athletics.** The Shanghai Golden Grand Prix. Action from the second Diamond League event of the season, held at the Shanghai Stadium in China.

**12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.40 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. 6.30 The Big Allotment Challenge.** (R) **7.30 Countryfile.** (R) **8.30 Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.00 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites.** (R) **11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. 12.00 Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) Fact-based drama, starring John Mills. **1.45 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Leigh Centurions** (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30 Trialblon.**

**6.00 Hotel India.** The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai is one of India's oldest and most famous hotels and is where the super-rich go to be treated like the maharajahs of the country's past. This documentary was filmed over the course of six months and goes behind the scenes with the 1,500-strong staff as they respond to every whim and demand of the guests. In the first episode, general manager Gaurav and executive housekeeper Indrani spend days making countless checks ahead of VIP visits to the luxurious Tata suite, while oil trader Captain Bhasin hosts a cocktail party in his rooms. (R)

**7.00 A Very British Airline.** Documentary about the inner workings of British Airways, exploring how the airline tries to persuade people to spend more by flying first class. (R)

**8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew.** New series. Following crews bringing down some of the country's biggest buildings, including the demolition of the 100m cooling towers of Didoct A power station.

**9.00 The Detectives.** New series. The work of a police team focusing on sex offences, beginning with a historic abuse investigation into a DJ accused of a string of sex offences in the 1960s and 1970s. Continues tomorrow.

**10.00 Film: Made in Dagenham.** (2010) The female employees of a 1960s British car firm lead a national strike, demanding the right to equal pay. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins.

**11.45 Film: Hideous Kinky.** (1998) A single mother decides to uproot her two children and head for Morocco in the hope of finding spiritual fulfillment. 1970s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet.

**1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **2.20 Holby City.** (R) **3.20 This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00 CITYV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** (R) **8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **10.20 Judge Rinder.** (R) **11.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Tipping Point.** (R) **1.30 Britain's Got Talent.** (R) **2.45 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **3.50 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **5.50 Ninja Warrior UK.** (R) **6.45 Regional Programme: Weather. 7.00 ITV News: Weather. 7.15 Celebrity Squares.** Sarah Millican, Ana Matronic, Joe Lycett, Tess Daly, Rickie Haywood-Williams, Melvin Odom and Milton Jones join Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.

**8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium.** Jimmy Carr hosts the variety show, with music by Markus Feehily, Rebecca Ferguson and Deacon Blue, a dance routine from Vincent and Flavia, and comedy from Rob Beckett.

**9.00 Home Fires.** The impact of the war begins to be felt in Great Paxford as the women are forced to make sacrifices for the salvage effort. But soon matters on the personal front replace their efforts on the home front as Kate and Jack's relationship intensifies. Pat's marriage deteriorates and Claire finally plucks up the courage to ask Spencer out - unaware he is hiding a secret that could ruin their relationship before it has even started. Meanwhile, Alison resorts to desperate measures to pay a bill, and soon realises her actions will cost her much more. Wartime drama, with Claire Rushbrook, Daisy Badger, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Fenella Woolgar.

**10.05 ITV News: Weather.**

**10.15 Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell.** The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era and finding out about the artists who wrote them.

**11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 22nd and final round of fixtures.

**12.10 The Store. 2.30 Motorsport UK. 3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05 Volkswagen Racing Cup. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.00 Film: The Parent Trap.** (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. **5.35 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** **6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Speed with Guy Martin.** The motorcycle racer and lorry mechanic attempts, with the aid of slipstreaming, to break the British record for outright speed on a bicycle - 110mph. Guy recruits a team comprising a truck racer, a bike builder and a design engineer to prepare for the feat, and undergoes a training regime with double Olympic cycling gold medalist Laura Trott before heading to Pendine Sands on the shores of Carmarthen Bay for his challenge. (R)

**8.00 For the Love of Cars.** The lads celebrate Swedish cars, which they claim to be the unlikely trailblazers of motoring. Philip Glenister gets to live out a childhood dream when he gets behind the wheel of the Volvo P1800 from Roger Moore's 1960s TV series The Saint, and they visit the renowned Millbrook test track to put a 25-year-old Saab 900 Turbo through its paces.

**9.00 Grayson Perry's Dream House.** Documentary following the creation of Grayson Perry's biggest and most ambitious work of art to date - the building of a secular chapel in tribute to Essex women.

**10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the famous quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Kathy Burke and Kevin Bridges. (R)

**11.05 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking.** (R) **12.10 Film: Hyde Park on Hudson.** (2012) **1.45 Undercover Boss Canada.** (R) **2.35 Born Naughty?** (R) **3.30 Phil: Secret Agent Down Under.** (R) **4.25 The Renovation Game.** (R) **5.20 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.** (R) **5.30 The Common Denominator.** (R) **5.55 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **6.20 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Pip Ahoy!** (R) **6.45 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.55 Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.05 Roodbar and Custard Too.** (R) **7.15 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.40 Little Princess.** (R) **7.50 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **7.55 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) **8.05 Milkshake! Pop Box.** (R) **8.10 Zack and Quack.** (R) **8.25 Oily the Little White Van.** (R) **8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.40 Mio Mao.** (R) **8.45 Jelly Jam.** (R) **9.00 LazyTown.** (R) **9.30 Dora and Friends.** (R) **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.35 Access.** **10.40 The Dog Rescuers.** (R) **11.05 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.05 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.05 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.00 Film: The Money Pit.** (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. **3.45 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil.** (1989) A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crooks tracking down a top-secret microchip. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. Edited to reduce language, nudity, innuendo and violence.

**4.50 Film: The Great Escape.** (1963) Allied prisoners held in a supposedly escape-proof detention camp plan an ingenious mass breakout. Second World War drama, with Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough. **8.50 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Big Brother: Timebomb.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00 Film: The Rock.** (1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller, with Sean Connery.

**12.40 Film: Bangkok Dangerous.** (2008) A hitman in Thailand questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage. **2.30 SuperCasing.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice and Alistair Appleton present more highlights from the series, recalling a basement flat in north London desperately in need of tidying up. Last in the series. (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride. 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News. 10.00 Tatau. 11.25 Family Guy. 12.10 Murder in Successville. 12.40 American Dad! 1.00 Family Guy. 1.25 Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment. 1.50 Russell Howard's Good News. 2.20 In Deep. 2.35 Tatau**

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Operation Jericho. 8.00 Fighting for King and Empire: Britain's Caribbean Heroes. 9.00 Burma, My Father and the Forgotten Army. 10.00 Eastern Island: Mysteries of a Lost World. 11.30 Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark. 12.30 Shirley Bassey at the BBC. 1.30 Imagine: Dame Shirley Bassey: The Girl from Tiger Bay. 2.30 Operation Jericho. 3.30 Close**

**ITV2**  
**3.30 Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) **5.35 Britain's Got Talent. 6.55 Britain's Got More Talent. 8.00 You've Been Framed! Presents. 9.00 Film: 21 Jump Street.** (2012) **11.15 Film: The Matrix Reloaded.** (2003) **1.45 Fake Reaction. 2.20 Teleshopping. 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**

**ITV3**  
**1.25 A Touch of Frost. 3.40 Film: Clockwise.** (1986) **5.35 Wycliffe. 6.40 Inspector Morse. 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety. 10.00 Vicious. 11.05 Film: Steptoe and Son.** (1972) **1.05 Like Father, Like Son. 2.20 Judge Judy. 3.20 ITV3 Nightscreen. 3.40 Emmerdale**

**ITV4**  
**12.35 Pawn Stars. 2.55 Gunsmoke. 4.00 Film: Shalako.** (1968) **6.15 Film: The Cimarron Kid.** (1952) **8.00 Premiership Rugby Union. 9.00 Film: National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1.** (1993) **10.45 Film: The Jerk.** (1979) **12.40 Hell on Wheels. 2.15 Tommy Cooper. 2.40 Movies Now. 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen**

**E4**  
**12.30 Made in Chelsea. 1.35 Melissa & Joey. 2.30 How I Met Your Mother. 3.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 4.00 The Goldbergs. 5.00 Film: Three Men and a Cradle.** (1987) **7.00 The Big Bang Theory. 10.00 Gogglebox. 11.00 The Inbetweeners. 12.10 Virtually Famous. 1.00 Channel 4's Comedy Gala. 2014. 2.10 New Girl. 2.55 Rules of Engagement. 3.15 The Cleveland Show. 3.40 Hollyoaks**

**Film4**  
**11.00 Sea Devils.** (1953) **1.00 The Legend of Zorro.** (2005) **3.00 The Hunt for Red October.** (1990) **6.30 Hugo.** (2011) **9.00 Braveheart.** (1995) **12.25 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory.** (1995) **2.25 The Day He Arrives.** (2011) **4.00 Close**

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, BBC2, 11.20pm**  
Bruno, a boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods close to the facility's boundary, he spots a Jewish youngster being held there, and the two become friends – but Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis. (2008)

**TUESDAY**  
**The Resident, BBC1, 11.45pm**  
A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, and becomes attracted to her landlord. However, she does not realise he is becoming dangerously obsessed with her, constructing elaborate hiding places to spy on her. His behaviour becomes increasingly sinister, and her reconciliation with her ex-boyfriend drives him into a murderous rage. Horror, with Hilary Swank. (2011)



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Monday, BBC2, 11.20pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Robot & Frank, BBC1, 11.15pm**  
An elderly jewel thief struggles to look after himself as his memory starts to fail him. His busy son invests in a robot carer to look after the old man, but the retired crook sees the machine as the perfect partner for one last heist. Sci-fi comedy drama, starring Frank Langella and James Marsden. (2012)

**THURSDAY**  
**The Other Man, BBC1, 11.45pm**  
After his wife's death, a man learns she was having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge, but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson and Antonio Banderas. (2008)

**FRIDAY**  
**Fletch, ITV, 10.40pm**  
A wisecracking reporter and master of disguise investigates a man who falsely claims to be dying and is asking people to kill him. Comedy mystery based on Gregory Mcdonald's novel, with Chevy Chase and Tim Matheson. (1985)

The stars are out to shine on a night of celebration

Life is rarely quiet in Walford, Westhertfield, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks, or the Doctors' town of Letherbridge, but 2015 has been even more dramatic than usual.

So after 12 months of crying their mascara all down their faces, emerging dazed from realistic-looking wreckage and praying they don't forget their lines ahead of a big live episode, it's time for the soap stars to put on their glad rags and celebrate at The British Soap Awards 2015.

As Phillip Schofield, who is hosting the awards from the Palace Theatre in Manchester, says: "What a year it's been in soap land – we've had some brilliant storylines and acting that's absolutely kept the nation gripped."

"It's my 10th anniversary as host of The British Soap Awards this year so I'm really looking forward to an incredible night that's sure to be one to remember."

Last year's awards were largely dominated by Coronation Street and the heartbreaking demise of Hayley Cropper. Julie Hesmondhalgh and her on-screen husband David Nelson won

Best Actress and Actor respectively (with an additional Drama, Performance award for Neilson), as well as Best Storyline, Episode and On-Screen Partnership, although the coveted Best British Soap award was snatched by Hollyoaks.

This year though, many seasoned-soapwatchers will probably be expecting Coronation Street to take a backseat to its arch-rival EastEnders.

In February, the BBC's flagship soap celebrated its 30th anniversary with a 'live week', culminating in the revelation that Lucy Beale had been murdered by her little brother. In fact, there was so much going on, some fans barely had the chance to register the news that Kathy Beale, believed to have died off-screen in 2006, was still alive.

Luckily, the awards judges were taking note as her comeback has been nominated for Scene of the Year. There's also a nod for the live episode, while Elliot Carrington, who plays pint-sized killer Bobby Beale, is up for Best Young Performance, and John Altman's 'Nasty' Nick Cotton, who finally breathed his last that week, is up for Best Villain.

However, like the soaps themselves, these awards are usually full of twists and surprises, and there could be some major upsets.

It's also been a spectacular year for Hollyoaks, which brought us a dramatic train crash. Emmerdale gave us the deaths of Katie Sugden and Donna Dingle, while Doctors saw the reunion of Rob and Karen.

Whatever happens, it's going to be an emotional evening, especially as many viewers will be expecting tributes to soap legend Ann Kirkbride, aka Deirdre Barlow, who died in January.

But it might also be a time to look ahead to what's in store for the future, and speculate about forthcoming storylines.

And given that we recently found out that Kat Moon once gave birth to twins without realising and kindly former vicar's wife Laurel Dingle is now a raging alcoholic, it seems safe to say that no matter how many gongs they pick up, the nation's serials won't be taking it easy during the rest of 2015.



The British Soap Awards 2015, Thursday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Class of 92, ITV, 10.40pm**

Remember the time when David Beckham was a fresh-faced whippersnapper plying his trade with Manchester United? Around Becks, who recently turned 40, were other young players plucked from the ranks of the Red Devils' youth team by Alex Ferguson to spearhead yet another challenge on the Premier League title. Among them were Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt, Gary Neville, Phil Neville and Paul Scholes – Fergie's Fledglings. This documentary charts the group's rise to prominence and their biggest moments, as well as their continuing friendships. Stars such as Eric Cantona, Zinedine Zidane, film director Danny Boyle, Stone Roses bass player Mani and ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair are among those offering their opinions.

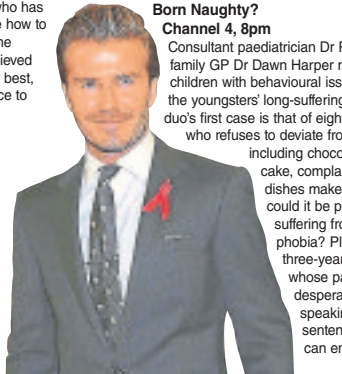
**TUESDAY**  
**Blinging Up Baby: You Won't Believe It!, Channel 5, 9pm**

Some people may not see the point in buying expensive clothes for kids, especially when the designer gear will only end up covered in stains before being outgrown in what can seem like a matter of weeks. However, a growing number of parents are choosing to dress their young children

in glamorous outfits – in fact, the trend is so widespread that following last year's one-off documentary, Channel 5 is now bringing us an entire series devoted to it. In this first episode, we meet mum-of-three Lisa Marie Whitcombe, who is entering two of her daughters into a beauty pageant, and Candi Donaldson, who has already taught six-year-old Frankie how to put on make-up and false nails. The mothers also explain why they believed that by making their tots look their best, they are giving them the confidence to face the world.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Inspector George Gently, BBC1, 8pm**

It's Christmas Eve 1969 and Gently is enjoying a spot of festive cheer until he gets the news that a bank has been hit by armed robbers and he and Bacchus have work to do. The detective's hunt for the gunmen takes him into the world of skinheads and he is later faced with a dilemma. Does the law always have to be so cruel, or



The Class of 92, Monday, ITV, 10.40pm

can he bend it just this once? Detective drama set in the north-east of England, starring Martin Shaw and Lee Ingleby, with a guest appearance by Jody Latham (Shameless). Last in the series.

**THURSDAY**  
**Born Naughty?, Channel 4, 8pm**

Consultant paediatrician Dr Ravi Jayaram and family GP Dr Dawn Harper meet more children with behavioural issues, as well as the youngsters' long-suffering parents. The duo's first case is that of eight-year-old Bobby, who refuses to deviate from a diet including chocolate, chips and cake, complaining that other dishes make him feel unwell – could it be possible he is suffering from a food phobia? Plus, the story of three-year-old Jessi-Jai, whose parents are desperate for her to start speaking in proper sentences so they can engage in conversations together.

**FRIDAY**  
**Mysteries of the Bible: Mary Magdalene, Channel 5, 8pm**

From the writing of the New Testament to the filming of The Da Vinci Code, Mary Magdalene is one of the most controversial figures in the Bible. She features in the Gospels and is present at many of the important moments recorded in Jesus's life, including the crucifixion and the resurrection. However, she also got a reputation as a harlot and fallen woman, mainly dating from a sixteenth-century sermon delivered by Pope Gregory. In this documentary, author Margaret Starbird sets out to investigate claims made in recent years that not only was Mary the wife of Christ, but also the mother of His children. Starbird also examines the role women may have played in the early Christian church.

**Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites, BBC2, 8pm**

The veteran cook focuses on recipes inspired by her love of the countryside. Mushrooms are one of Mary's favourite ingredients and she goes foraging for wild varieties in the New Forest, before cooking garlic mushrooms on toasted brioche and mushroom Scotch eggs – ideal for a country picnic hamper.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16	17	24	6	9	10	5	6
10	9	3	9	10	26	9	5
23	14	23	1	7	10	12	21
8	2	22	25	10	5	5	13
18			9		18	1	11
2	25	6	11	5	15	6	
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16			16	23	9	3	4
24	6	21	18	25	18	10	6
11	11		3	24	20	7	25
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	X	W	E	A	T	H	Z	N	L	Y	B	J
S	U	Q	F	V	P	G	D	O	R	K	I	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Teaches one way to confiscate (7)  
8. Gloss over (6)  
9. I'd note a friend in the best possible way (7)  
10. Swedish girl riding around (6)  
11. Smile wryly when given the wrong directions (6)  
12. Sailors in the drink (8)  
18. If done it might be reported (8)  
20. First two letters posted away (6)  
21. Base Shakespearean character (6)  
22. Little of the court's time will be taken by this group of dissipated people (4,3)  
23. Be inclined to receive support from others? (4,2)  
24. Back the other side (7)
- Down
1. She robbed her sleeping partner of his capital assets (7)  
2. Bounty - and it's a big ship too (7)  
3. Possibly deigns to draw (6)  
5. Sent about ten cents as a deposit (8)  
6. Its passengers will be late (6)  
7. As yet unalarmed? (6)  
13. They secure temporary accommodation (4-4)  
14. Friendly? Far from it! (7)  
15. Very hard worker supports a mother (7)  
16. A variety of bread to cause friction (6)  
17. Sting to anger (6)  
19. Smoothed out on board perhaps (6)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8							
10				9			
12				13			
	16	17	18		19		
20					21		
22					23		
24							

Quick Clues:

Across

4. Versus (7)  
8. Fairness (6)  
9. Dry (7)  
10. Easy (6)  
11. Mar (6)  
12. Sit astride (8)  
18. Ludicrous (8)  
20. Ripe (6)  
21. Bewilder (6)  
22. Trust (7)  
23. Rely (6)  
24. Make good (7)

Down

1. Endure (7)  
2. Resume (7)  
3. Phlegmatic (6)  
5. Magnificence (6)  
6. Revenue (6)  
7. Sleigh (6)  
13. Guardian (8)  
14. Charged (7)  
15. By now (7)  
16. In abundance (6)  
17. Beat (6)  
19. Talented (6)

Sudoku

		5	1				6	2
	6		5		9			
	1	3				7	9	
	3			1			5	8
			6		5			
7			9	4			2	
	8	6					7	
			3		7			6
5	2	7			8	1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	4	5	3	7	1	6	5	9
7	1	3	6	9	5	8	2	4
9	6	5	4	8	2	3	7	1
6	7	4	5	1	8	9	3	2
3	9	1	7	2	4	5	6	8
8	5	2	9	6	3	1	4	7
1	2	7	8	5	6	4	9	3
4	8	6	2	3	9	7	1	5
5	3	9	1	4	7	2	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Second-class; 9 And; 10 Lower-case; 11 Paced; 13 Epistle; 14 Minute; 16 Uglier; 18 Deepest; 19 Might; 20 Underhand; 21 Too; 22 Prime number. Down: 2 End; 3 Oiled; 4 Dawned; 5 Larking; 6 Startling; 7 Happy medium; 8 Penetration; 12 Contender; 15 Theorem; 17 Strain; 19 Madam; 21 Toe. QUICK - Across: 1 Opinionated; 9 Met; 10 Spectator; 11 Array; 13 Observe; 14 Superb; 16 Pennon; 18 Detests; 19 Dodge; 20 Rebellion; 21 Gas; 22 Never-ending. Down: 2 Put; 3 Nasty; 4 Oberon; 5 Artist; 6 Enthroned; 7 Ambassadors; 8 Free and easy; 12 Reputable; 15 Resolve; 17 Aspire; 19 Dinod; 21 Gun.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What is the ninth sign of the zodiac?  
2. What is a turkey brown?  
3. In which country is Casablanca?  
4. In which ship did Drake circumnavigate the world in 1577-80?  
5. Who wrote the play Hay Fever?
6. In which war was the Battle of Borodino?  
7. Who painted The Laughing Cavalier?  
8. In which country was Albert Einstein Born?  
9. What is the capital of Sicily?  
10. What was the pen-name of the Irish writer Brian O'Nolan?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Hera; 2 1837; 3 Kenya; 4

Beethoven; 5 Four; 6 Kentucky; 7 Argon; 8

Anthony Trollope; 9 Dr. No; 10 Hamlet.

Niner: RELATIONS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5287334 gives an animal,  
5611 gives a bird,  
79948 gives a snake.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Extended five-bedroom cottage in a rural area



**EXTENDED** five-bedroomed detached Japonica Cottage, Gospel Ash Road, Halfpenny Green, is for sale via The Lee Shaw Partnership at £535,000.

It has an electric gated entrance, block paved drive and double garage. The property includes a sitting room, lounge, conservatory, WC, dining room, kitchen with Aga, breakfast room, utility, store room and office. Contact Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 or [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com)



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Abermule, Powys



**£295,000**

**A**n opportunity to purchase a village stores with three bedroom owners accommodation above. There is garden to one side with an allocated parking space to the other. The sale includes fixtures and fittings and goodwill. EPC: C



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SUMMER

# Auction

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**Tanwood Lane Chaddesley Corbett DY10 4NT**



A detached country cottage surrounded by open countryside and standing on a good level plot approaching 1.3 acres or thereabouts. The property is set within a particularly nice rural but not isolated location between Chaddesley Corbett and Belbroughton. A very rare opportunity within this incredibly sought after area. Vacant possession upon completion Energy Rating G

**Guide Price £300,000 - £350,000**

**Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster DY10 2UT**



A substantial traditional semi-detached house requiring modernisation and repair. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Gas to radiator central heating. Large Gardens. Energy Rating TBC

**Guide Price £85,000 - £105,000**

**6pm Tuesday  
2nd June 2015**  
at  
**Hogarths Stone Manor Hotel,  
Stone, Near Kidderminster,  
Worcestershire. DY10 4PJ**

**Low Hill Summerfield DY11 7RS**



A detached three bedroom house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Spacious Breakfasting Kitchen. Bathroom. Cellarage. Large Gardens. Energy Rating TBC

**Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000**

**Comberton Avenue, Kidderminster DY10 3EG**



Substantial three bedroom detached house. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Workshop. Ground floor WC. Garage with pit. Family Bathroom. Detached Garage. Requires re-fitting and refurbishment. Energy Rating TBC

**Guide Price £125,000 - £150,000**

**Church Walk, Stourport DY13 0AL**



Spacious detached bungalow with attic space/occasional bedroom. Living Room. Breakfasting Kitchen. Wet Room. Two double Bedrooms. Side and main Porch. Garage. Private driveway. Fore & rear Gardens. Double glazed. Gas to radiator central heating. Energy Rating TBC

**Guide Price £150,000 - £180,000**

31 Worcester St. Kidderminster Worcs DY10 1EQ  
Tel: 01562 822244 Fax: 01562 825401  
email: [sales@phippsandpritchard.co.uk](mailto:sales@phippsandpritchard.co.uk)

1 High St. Stourport on Severn Worcs DY13 8DJ  
Tel: 01299 822060 Fax: 01299 827066  
email: [stourport@phippsandpritchard.co.uk](mailto:stourport@phippsandpritchard.co.uk)

44 Teme St. Tenbury Wells Worcs WR15 8AA  
Tel: 01584 811999 Fax: 01584 819464  
email: [tenbury@mccartneys.co.uk](mailto:tenbury@mccartneys.co.uk)

78 High St. Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 4DS  
Tel: 01746 767488 Fax: 01746 767081  
email: [bridgnorth@phippsandpritchard.co.uk](mailto:bridgnorth@phippsandpritchard.co.uk)



# Ample parking at semi with price tag of £135k



**THIS** well-presented three-bedroom semi-detached house in Rifle Street, Bilston has ample parking.

It is for sale priced £135,000. Decorated in neutral shades and with double glazing and gas central heating it has a through hallway.

There is an open plan lounge/diner, kitchen with part tiled walls and door to the garden, modern bathroom and three bedrooms (two with storage).

At the front is a long block paved driveway with a shed and a garden with lawn, decking and a patio area.

For more information contact the agents on 01902 766388 or visit [www.homepoint.org.uk](http://www.homepoint.org.uk)



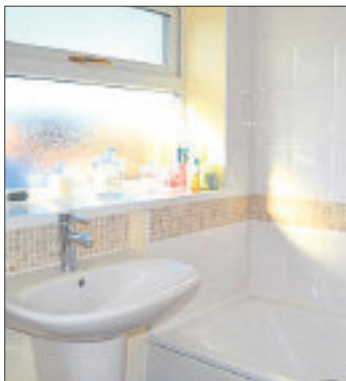
## Detached home has potential to expand

A FOUR-BEDROOMED detached property with potential to extend, The Paddock at Coven, Wolverhampton is in an attractive cul-de-sac position.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £370,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has driveway parking for several vehicles, entrance hall, WC off, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen with attractive cream units and slate flooring, dishwasher, floor tiling, dining room, utility room/office, bedroom one (en suite and dressing area), bedroom two (en suite), two further bedrooms, a bathroom, garden and garage.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 788188 or visit [www.skitts.net](http://www.skitts.net)



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**NEW ROAD, NETHERTON, DY2 9AY**

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- 2 Reception Rooms
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- EPC tbc

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**ST. JAMES ROAD, DUDLEY DY1 1JG**

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- Private Courtyard
- Off Street Parking
- Gas CH & DG
- EPC tbc

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- Gas CH & DG • EPC tbc

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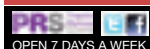


**BROOK LANE, CRADLEY HEATH, B64 5JP**

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- EPC tbc

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An Express & Star supplement

**Express & Star**





**HIGH STREET WOLLASTON**

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge/Diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, fore garden with driveway affording off road parking and rear garden with patio area, pond and shed. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£650PCM DEPOSIT £750 • FEES**



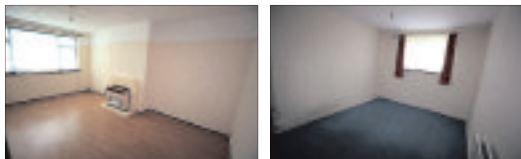
**SPRING STREET LYE**

A Two bedroom End Terrace Property refurbished to a high standard and situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. The accommodation comprises of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby, ground floor bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, private driveway affording off road parking & leading to a large garage/store and rear garden with patio, lawned gardens and vegetable plot. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 • FEES**



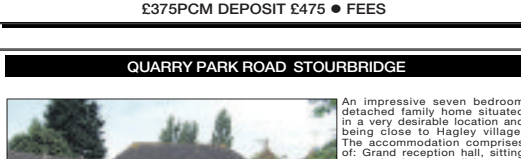
**HIGH STREET WORDSLEY**

A delightful two bedroom period property situated in a prominent location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear garden and gravelled driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES  
**£500PCM DEPOSIT £600 • FEES**



**WHITE OAK DRIVE FINCHFIELD**

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, open plan garden to the fore and enclosed lawned rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 • FEES**



**NORTHGATE CRADLEY HEATH**

A ground floor, one bedroom apartment with accommodation to comprise of kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, communal gardens, and parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 • FEES**



**GREENSFORGE LANE STOURTON**

An elegant and impressive house set in a mature wooded setting offering both seclusion and privacy and being close to Stourbridge, having excellent road links and schools. The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, games room, conservatory, cloakroom, cellars, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. The property further boasts integral garaging, driveway affording parking, beautiful terraced garden with mature woodland, all weather tennis court and outbuildings. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO  
**£5000PCM DEPOSIT £10000 • FEES**



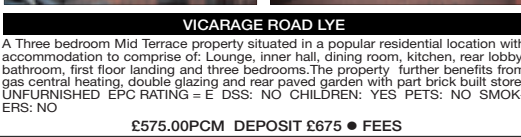
**QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE**

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£2999PCM DEPOSIT £3099 • FEES**



**OLD MILL FARM HOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD**

An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Ground Floor - Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby, First Floor - Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites Shower Room Bedroom has En-Suite Bathroom. Second Floor - Bedrooms Four and Five and House Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a gravelled driveway leading to the rear of the property where there is ample off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO  
**£2000PCM DEPOSIT £2100 • FEES**



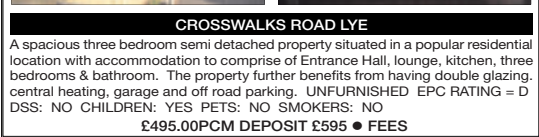
**VICARAGE ROAD LYE**

A Three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, first floor landing and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear paved garden with part brick built store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£575.00PCM DEPOSIT £675 • FEES**



**ALBERT STREET LYE**

A well presented three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio area and lawn and shared entry to the front. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO  
**£520PCM DEPOSIT £620 • FEES**



**CROSSWALKS ROAD LYE**

A spacious three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with shower cubicle and separate WC. The property further boasts electric storage heating, decked terrace affording lovely views and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£495.00PCM DEPOSIT £595 • FEES**



**WILLOWDALE GRANGE WOLVERHAMPTON**

A Two Bedroom Ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Open Plan lounge/kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric panel heaters, double glazing and communal grounds with an allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 • FEES**

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**HIGH STREET QUARRY BANK**

A spacious one bedroom first floor apartment situated close to all amenities with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with shower cubicle and separate WC. The property further boasts electric storage heating, decked terrace affording lovely views and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 • FEES**





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## Slicker new Vitara will challenge

By James Parker

It's good to see the Vitara badge being rehabilitated after the indignities it suffered at the hands of fashion in the early nineties. You'll probably shudder as you recall those wide-wheelarched horrors, usually so mercilessly colour-keyed in white that it looked as if they'd emerged from a peroxide bath.

The windsurfing or rollerblading rhino on the spare wheel cover and the booming stereo from within were all rather 'of their time'. The easy thing to have done after suffering these ministrations would have been to quietly drop the Vitara name and think up a new badge for their next generation of compact crossovers but Suzuki stuck with it, probably to their cost, in this country at least. As the market grew more sophisticated, Suzuki was left behind.

The thing is, the Grand Vitara as it subsequently built were actually pretty good. Sure, they were short of a bit of polish, but they were tough, reliable and practical. Then came the Nissan Qashqai. It hogged that particular section of the market and the Grand Vitara was doomed. Suzuki's back in the crossover segment with a smaller and slicker offering. The Vitara is back.

The mechanicals aren't anything too surprising, shared as they are with the existing SX4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a much preferable Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard with an optional CVT transmission also offered. Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but the 185mm ground clearance isn't generous.

The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console. Choose 'Auto' and it'll drive the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits torque equally between front and rear.

### Assured

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design, the Vitara is an assured piece of design. There's also a blacked-out floating glass-house, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat taillamp finish.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (many of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims, plus an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a 375-litre boot.

Prices start at around £14,000 for the entry-level 1.6-litre petrol, but you'll need a £20,000 budget for the petrol ALLGRIP 4WD version. 1.6 DDiS diesel model pricing starts at around £17,000. All variants get seven airbags, 16-inch alloy wheels, a DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with a speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

The Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight saving measures in the body plus an Engine Auto Stop Start system which shuts down the engine when stationary.

The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two wheel drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive / six-speed automatic transmission.

Four-wheel drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions performance. By contrast, Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV, with figures of 130g/km with five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with six-speed automatic transmission.





## Car buyers are switching on

Britain is switching on to the electric revolution, with four of the top 10 cars in a recent high-profile ownership satisfaction survey being electric or hybrid.

The Auto Express Driver Power survey, which saw 61,000 responses from car owners, was topped by the third-generation Lexus IS 300h (pictured above) with an outstanding satisfaction score of 93.96 per cent.

Lexus also scored sixth overall with its NX 300h – an impressive result for such a new car.

### Overall

Renault's Zoe all-electric car pipped the NX to fifth place, though, and classified as the best electric car ahead of the Nissan Leaf, which placed eighth overall.

It's the first time that all-electric cars have finished in the Driver Power top 10, and the first time that a hybrid has won the overall honours.

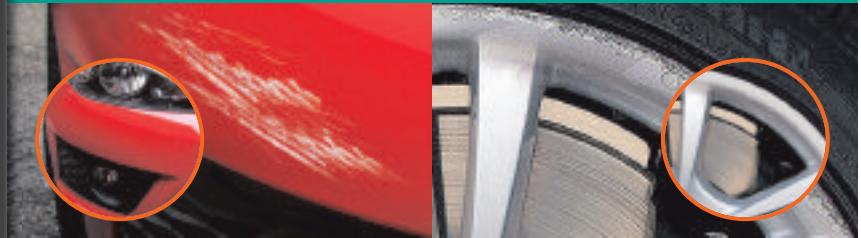
Second place was taken by the

first-generation Skoda Yeti, with the brilliant and recently-introduced Hyundai i10 completing the podium.

The Seat Leon was fourth and won its class, while there were strong results for the Jaguar XJ, Mini three-door hatchback and, against all expectations, the MG3, which was 10th.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief of Auto Express, said: "Car buyers are attracted by the low running costs of hybrid and electric cars, but Driver Power 2015 shows that the whole ownership experience for these cars is pretty enjoyable, too."

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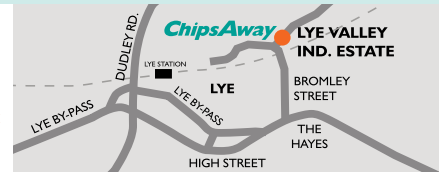
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# Subaru's Outback is very smart combination

By Iain Dooley

If you're not a fully paid up member of the SUV club but still need to combine refinement with rugged driving ability, Subaru's new Outback crossover might be the best 4x4 for you.

Look past the Outback's modest visual updates and there's clear evidence that Subaru has been busy making its crossover-style wagon more competitive. The Japanese firm has made a number of welcome tweaks to the driving experience, with changes to the car's steering and suspension, resulting in sharper and more engaging on-road behaviour.

Subaru has also been busy in the Outback's cabin, as the overall ambience has been improved thanks to a significant uplift in quality.

New trim materials, a new fascia and seats help boost the car's premium class credentials. And alongside revised engines, Subaru is rolling out a suite of trick active safety measures, including an auto brake function, intelligent cruise control and a lane departure warning system.

## Durable

Admired among the Subaru faithful for its no-nonsense personality, practical cabin and easy-on-the-eye looks, the Outback offers an interesting blend of (almost) go-anywhere abilities, plus durable mechanicals. This revised Outback is closer to its European rivals in the refinement and quality departments than ever before, although it remains a niche consideration for most buyers.

The Outback's generous size cabin ensures that all occupants benefit from a decent amount of head and legroom – especially in the back. Oddment space in the cabin is also good, while the car's boot is large enough to cope with the demands of most owners.

Thanks to the Outback's elevated ride height, cabin entry and loading, the boot is made that bit easier, too. And it wouldn't be right to omit reference to the car's 4x4 system, which is likely to be just as useful in the dry as in the wet.

As part of the Outback's update programme Subaru's engineers have made some welcome improvements under the car's skin.

Tweaks to refine how the Outback behaves on the road have resulted in a more engaging and refined driving experience, while the diesel-CVT auto combination proves to be a smooth and predictable combination. Factor in all-wheel drive and the Outback is a robust, all-weather package that's also brisk, yet imparts a high level of confidence and security.

## Protect

Aside from the basic act of driving, Subaru has pushed the boat out with an all-singing, all-dancing active safety package, which combines intelligent cruise control, lane departure warning and an auto brake function to better protect you from the outside world than many of the Outback's pricier rivals.

No longer a cheap and cheerful alternative for rough and ready farmers, Subaru's Outback delivers a high level of refinement, comfort and practicality on a par with its premium European rivals.

Although well equipped in standard trim, you'll need to pick an auto transmission car if you want to benefit from Subaru's trick active safety package. Furthermore, diesel remains the smart choice if you want to reduce your tax and fuel outlay.

If the current crop of fashion-led SUVs bring you out in a rash, Subaru's polished, yet no-nonsense Outback offers a good blend of versatility, useful technology, all-weather practicality and understated style. It's not the last word in sporty handling, but it'll likely be more helpful when the roads are soaked or you need to tow a trailer than the latest soft-roader.

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## Roofing

## ROOFING SERVICES

### SPECIAL OFFERS

on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/ Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs

- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting



- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

**Home: 01384 872276**  
**Mobile: 07584 081228**

## Roofing Contractors

High performance flat roofing (25 year guarantee)  
**GUTTERS CLEANED £15 SMALL REPAIRS £15**  
**SLATES REPLACED £25 REPOINTING £15**  
• Fibreglass glass sheeting • UPVC fascias  
• Guttering • Verges • Soffits cleaned £30  
• Chimney flashing • Ridge tiles £25  
**ALL RE-ROOFING (FREE ESTIMATES)**  
Telephone or Text **07773 001859**  
**01384 591 826**

**To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...**

**1**

Call us on...  
**01384 399901**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
**sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk**

**3**

Post to...  
**Sue Jones, Stourbridge Chronicle**  
**3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB**



# Local Specialists

## Roofing

## Removals

## Specialists

# M&M Fascias

## Quality

- uPVC • Fascias • Soffits • Guttering
- Tile Edging • Roofing

Also

### CONCRETE GUTTERING

Specialist removal  
Replacing with  
Modern low maintenance  
Upvc Fascias and Soffits



All work  
guaranteed  
with HomePro  
Insurance

Registered with



Membership  
No. 554518



No Free  
Gimmicks  
Family  
Business  
Local  
References  
if required

Giving homeowners peace of mind  
**ALWAYS FREE ADVICE  
AND QUOTATION**  
**Freephone**  
**0800 799 9413**  
to speak to Mark  
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill,  
West Midlands DY5 2YD

**THE REMOVAL COMPANY**  
*Moved with care*

- Fully insured
- Local and long distance
- Free quotes
- Free boxes included

**07930 174673 BEN**  
**07535 664291 ANDY**

**DRIVES • PATHS • PATIOS • COBBLES**  
**JET WASHING SERVICE**  
**FINE-LINE PAVING**  
(MIDLANDS) LTD.

CONTACT ANDY OR GRAHAM NOW  
FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE  
**(01384) 869605**  
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ALL BRICKWORK & GROUNDWORK UNDERTAKEN  
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

**10% off**  
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IN HALESOWEN  
Minis - Midis  
Builders Skips  
The best in the West  
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**07956 664002**

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ALL AREAS  
BEST PRICES**

All Size Skips available for immediate delivery  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**SCRAP CARS**  
removed for **FREE**

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U Fill'em  
We mt 'em

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DUDLEY: 01384 827669 K'MINSTER: 01562 881508  
WHAMPTON: 01902 690 095 MOB: 07988 723505  
info@adb-roofing.com

- Fascia & Guttering
- Plastic Gables/Verges
- Roof Repairs
- Re-Pointing
- Leadwork
- Flat Roofing
- Slating & Tiling
- Tile Changing
- Flat Roofs to Pitched
- Asbestos Roofs Replaced

**INSURANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN**

**ELITE PLASTICS**

- Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
- Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair

Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call  
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**Roofix Roofing**  
Flat roofing specialists

All types of flat roofing systems  
Tiling Work, Fascia, Soffits and Guttering  
Chimney Repointing, Free Quotations

Tel: **01902 560892**  
Mobile: **07952 442017**  
**www.roofixwm.co.uk**

## GET CUSTOMERS SHOPPING ADVERTISE

41% of people decide where to shop as a result of seeing advertising in local media - ahead of supermarket promotions (25%), direct mail (21%) and TV advertising (19%)

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Express & Star call 01902 31 31 31

**Express & Star**

To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...

**1**

Call us on...  
**01384 399901**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
**sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk**

**3**

Post to...  
Sue Jones, Stourbridge Chronicle  
3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB



# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## funeral directors

**Wombourne Funeral Services**  
3rd Generation  
Family Business &  
Monumental Masons  
24hr Personal Service  
Private Chapels of Rest  
Pre-paid Funeral Plans  
Wombourne 01902 892635  
Perton 01902 756850  
Kinver 01384 875499

## J.T. BROOKES

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Brierley Hill 01384 77098  
Kingswinford 01384 296683  
Hagley 01562 888041  
www.nedowning.co.uk

## religious notices

## christadelphian

THE TRUE TEACHING OF THE  
BIBLE The resurrection of  
Christ and its place in God's  
purpose. May 17, at 6pm, The  
Community Centre, High Street,  
Kingswinford. Or write to The  
Dawn (ref KC15) 5 Station Road,  
Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free  
information pack or ring 01384  
886544 for recorded message.

1

## Family

## education & tuition

## CLOISTERS

STOURBRIDGE TUTORS Est 1992  
West Midlands Premier Agency  
Home individual tutoring  
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS  
Protection of Children Act  
regulated and Police checked  
Primary, 11+, SATS,  
Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg. etc.  
0121 212 4986  
01902 671683  
www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk  
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

## elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER 4 wheel  
drive, red, 9 mile travel, 3 1/2 years  
old, 2 new batteries, documents  
provided. £240. 0121 530 3793.

**World of Mobility**

New Stairlifts from **£1,400 fitted**

Electric  
Rise &  
Recline  
Chairs  
from **£495**

SCOOTERS/  
ELECTRIC BEDS  
MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS  
FROM £110

We offer excellent customer  
service and aftercare on all  
our products.

Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Ambicote Stourbridge  
DY8 4BS or call **01384 378252**  
OPEN MON-SAT FREE PARKING AT REAR

**BARGAIN!**  
MOBILITY SCOOTER  
Excellent condition.  
4 wheels.  
Folds into boot.  
Can deliver free if local.  
£295.  
07508 311029.

PRIDE MOBILITY scooter, excellent  
condition, £200.  
01384 864292.  
SINGLE ELECTRIC bed, £100.  
Electric anchor, £90. Bath chair-  
lift, £70. 07950 418286.  
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS, recondi-  
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01552 405397/07897 273617

2

## Leisure Time

## boats & water sports

**BAYLINER MOTOR CRUISER**  
30ft x 10ft 6ins. Good condition.  
No inboard engine, partly fin-  
ished inside, good live-aboard  
boat when completed.  
£6,500.  
07855 043326.

**NARROWBOAT 60FT**  
2015, 4-berth, CH, log burner,  
12 volt and mains power, excel-  
lent condition, just completed,  
out of water for any inspection,  
Wombourne area.  
01384 288852 /  
07929 250737.

## car boot sales

**ASHWOOD CAR BOOT** Sundays  
from 9am. By Roberts Farm Shop  
on A449, DY8 0AA. 07710 644908.  
www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

## caravans / motorhomes

**DISCOUNTED**  
2004 WILLERBY VOGUE  
Over £8000 OFF!  
Luxury holiday home  
with FREE decking!  
12 Month Park, New Bar &  
Restaurant, Last Remaining Sea  
View Pitches -  
Call To View This Weekend  
07837 489013

**ATLAS WOODLANDER 35**  
Fitted to high Standard with  
decking and situated in  
Llanbrynmair, Mid Wales.  
A beautiful scenic setting with  
2 fishing pools and only  
20 miles from coast.  
Photos available.  
£6,000.  
To include all contents.  
01902 845706.

**AUTOSLEEPER** 2010 Nuevo  
Classic Motorhome, excellent  
condition, 2 berth, extras, £32,000.  
07879 842916 or 07951 848668.

**BAILEY PEGASUS GT65 RIMINI**  
October 2013, as new, 4 berth,  
end washroom, single axle,  
plus tailored cover with door  
access.  
£13,500.  
Telephone 01384 371488.

**BAILEY SENATOR 2006**  
2 berth, end bathroom,  
microwave, full oven, blow air  
heating, combi awning, many  
extras, excellent condition.  
£5,450.  
0121 550 2929.

**BAILEY SENATOR** Oklahoma,  
2003, excellent condition, four  
berth with fixed bed, shower and  
mover, £5,650. 01384 396397.

**CAMPVAN**  
G reg, 4 berth, fully loaded. 25  
years old. Excellent condition,  
1.8 petrol. 64,000 miles. MoT  
Sept.  
£2,785 ono.  
07931 713353.

## LOOK

**COACHMAN PASTICHE 460**  
2011, 2 berth, end bathroom,  
porch awning, axle wheel lock,  
motor mover, fully equipped to  
go, good condition, just been  
fully serviced, retiring from  
touring, no pets or smokers,  
one owner from new.  
£9,500 ono.  
0121 5507139.

## LOOK

**ELDDIS TYPHOON XL**, 4 berth,  
1994, very good condition, end  
bathroom, awning, cover, many  
extras, ready to go, £1,695 ono.  
07910 579449.

**FAMILY CARAVAN FOR SALE**  
On a stunning Coastal Park in  
North Wales, 5 min walk to the Beach.  
Great facilities including:  
Large indoor heated Pool with Flume.  
£6,995 all bills paid for 2015 season.  
Finance Packages can be  
arranged with a small deposit.  
T & C apply.  
Call Jeff now on  
0794 6350 132

**KAMPA RALLY PRO 330 PORCH AWNING**  
As new, £350.  
Fold up camping kitchen  
cupboard with ladder bag. £25.  
Travel cot £25.  
01902 238385. 07587 172720.

**LUNAR TOURING** caravan, 4 berth,  
cassette toilet, full awning, new  
loads of extras, £795 ono.  
07776 024844.

**SPRITE STERLING** Excel, 16ft, 2  
berth, motor mover included,  
wooden floor, full awning, many  
extras. £1,400. 01902 685354.

**SWIFT CHALLENGER CARAVAN**  
Excellent condition. Motor  
mover, 4 berth, end bath,  
dual fuel/cooker, fridge/freezer.  
Upholstery and carpets  
immaculate. Extras.  
£4,950 ono.  
Telephone 07944 538761.

**TRAILER TENT** Conway Continental  
L, very good condition, £800  
ono. 01384 561748. 07804  
493573.

**WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN**  
28 x 10, 2 bedrooms. On quiet  
park with two fishing pools in  
Mid Wales. Site fees included  
for 2015. Dog friendly.  
£4,500.  
Telephone 07922 351352

## EXCELLENT CONDITION

**VW T2 2.0 BAY CAMPER VAN**  
1976, left hand drive.  
California import.  
Marino yellow.  
Original Westfalia interior.  
Pop top. Sleeps 4.  
MoT March 16.  
Lovely condition for year.  
£12,995 ono.  
Telephone 07792 939370.  
Shrewsbury.

## EXCELLENT CONDITION

## caravans wanted

**All Caravans Wanted**  
Any Age or Condition  
\*CASH \*WAITING\*  
Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

## sports & leisure

**GOLF BUGGY**. Green Sneaker,  
single seat, with trailer, £300.  
Telephone 01902 372107.

## Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
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/bookanad

## holidays

## caravan holidays

**RHYL CARAVANS** Near shops,  
beach, clubs. Small deposits. All  
amenities 01902 780135

## self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
01278 794111  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## mind, body & soul

## psychics

**TWISTED - WILLOWS PSYCHIC**  
Telephone reading  
0906 400 3555

## what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE AND COLLECTABLES**  
FAIR Coven Memorial Hall, WV9  
5DL. Sunday 17 May, 10-3. Karen.  
01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

## markets

**BIGGEST SUNDAY MARKET IN THE MIDLANDS**  
Bescot Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

## 3 Home & Services

## antiques

**LOYD LOOM OTTAMAN**, colour  
original pink, good condition, £20  
ono. 07813 365049.

## furniture

**CIRCULAR TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS**  
4ft 3 door mirror backed unit,  
mahogany finish, very good  
condition.  
£199 for quick sale.  
01902 737943 / 07870  
801784.

**SOLID PINE** quality bedroom suite,  
double bed, large wardrobe, 2  
bedside cabinets, £400.  
01384 864292.

## household appliances

**BELLING DOUBLE** oven cooker,  
gas, electric grill, LPG, as new,  
never used, cost £500, accept  
£300. 01543 677909.

**FRIDGE PLUS** freezer box, 2ft 9 1/2 x  
1ft 7 1/2, white, 16 months old. £85.  
0752 1411373.

## items for sale

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertise-  
ment today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or inac-  
curacies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

**RECORDS/CDS WANTED & SOLD**  
Cash paid Vinyl Shop, 5a Cleveland  
Street, WV1 3HL. 07760 168972.  
**SET OF BURNING** tackle, as new,  
cost £300 will sell £150. 30ft pipes.  
07761 379384.

## BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

www.expressandstar.com  
/bookanad

and become one  
of hundreds of  
customers  
who regularly  
receive  
exclusive  
special offers  
& discounts.



## Classified Ads

**ELECTRICAL TREADMILL**  
Excellent condition, H112cm,  
running length 148cm,  
W56cm. £150. o.n.o.  
**Mr Christmas Nutcracker**  
musical theatre suite, H29cm,  
D33cm, W39cm, with adapter.  
£150. o.n.o. 01902 659232

## in your garden

**POND** with Tetra pump and  
Bermuda filter plus extras. £120.  
Please call 01902 494638.  
**POND** with Tetra pump and  
Bermuda filter plus extras. £120.  
Please call 07506 292267.

## items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
**A GENUINE LADY BUYER**  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester  
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins  
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys  
• Clocks • Paintings • All Silver  
• Chinese items • Old Ivory  
• Military items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
**INTERESTING**  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

**A ABSOLUTELY BEST** price given  
for single items or houses cleared.  
Antique, old, reproduction. Call:  
01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

## A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans  
/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh  
/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@  
hotmail.com

**WANTED** old watches, pocket or  
wrist, going or broken, Omega  
wrist wanted. 07446 765278.

## A BEST CASH PRICE PAID

**ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES**  
**WANTED.**  
All Mamod/Wileco/Bowmans  
All conditions  
\*Dinky\* \*Corgi\* \*Spot-on\*  
\*Britains and Airfix\*  
\*Mamod / Wileco Steam  
Engines\* \*Star Wars Figures\*  
\*Scalextric Pre 1970's  
Tri-ang, cars or  
complete sets.\*  
\*Old Enamel Advertising  
Signs\* \*Railway collections\*  
\*Pre 1970 Annuals wanted,  
Beano, Dandy, etc\*  
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

**ALL BRASS / COPPER** ornaments/  
brassware, all descriptions, miners  
lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi  
toys. 01902 745598.

## WANTED COMICS & CIGARETTE CARDS

Plus bubblegum and football  
cards such as A&BC, Barratt  
etc. Also comics and annuals  
required. Beano, Dandy,  
Marvel and other interesting old  
comics. Pre 1970 please. Will  
collect. Good cash prices paid  
for full collections.

Text message to  
07938 188610  
or call 01952 253266

**MAMOD STEAM Engines/ Trains**  
wanted all conditions/descriptions,  
Dinky/Corgi/Spot-on diecast vehi-  
cles. 01902 745598.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to care-  
fully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

**SCALEXTRIC WANTED.** Tri-ang  
sets and cars, pre 1970's, any con-  
dition. All Dinky, Corgi, Spot-on.  
01902 745598.

**SECOND HAND PUMP** and filter  
required: approx 14 foot long and 4  
foot wide. Ideally Wolverhampton  
area please. Call 07934 975217.

**WANTED OLD** watches, pocket or  
wrist, going or broken, Omega  
wrist wanted. 07446 765278.

## t.v. / home entertainment

## service

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS**  
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs,  
Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.  
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.  
Digital aerials, Sky installation.  
Wall mounts & TV setups.  
**07850 330251**

## specialists at your service

## aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90  
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130  
**Work Guaranteed**  
**Same Day Service**  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**  
**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

## alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

## gas fitting

**NEW BOILERS** Hobs, cookers &  
fires fit and gas. L-Ord certs / gas  
leaks 07954 543041 01384 825556

## house clearances

**ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED**  
FULL OR PART  
GARGAES/ SHEDS,  
RUBBISH REMOVED  
WASTE LICENCE  
01384 486456 /  
07711661135

## blinds

**AB-Blinds**  
**Super 6**  
6 Child Safe Verticals  
Fitted from only £169  
Call 0800 0347111  
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

## builders

**D & T BUILDERS** All Building Work  
Undertaken. Free Quotes.  
07516 715150 - 07463 849340

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS** Exten-  
sions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways. See us on 'Rated  
People'. Call 01902 579592 / 07837  
994465

## carpet & upholstery cleaning

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
OPAL discount. Recession Prices.  
Unbeatable Value. Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

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**UPVC BACK DOORS** from £299,  
front doors from £389 fitted.  
Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

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**STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL**  
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc.  
All domestic and commercial work.  
07786 858977/01902 846167.

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
\*SPECIAL OFFER\*  
10 Days of quality fencing  
concrete posts, gravel boards &  
heavy duty panels supplied and fitted  
for **£695.00**  
www.portwayfencing.com  
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Office: 0121 531 5250  
Mobile: 07866 137656

## flooring

**KARNDAN FITTER** 12yrs exp.  
Free consultation. 07855 400013  
www.mcnicolasflooring.com

## gardening services

For all your Patio's,  
Turfing, Decking,  
treework and  
Root grinding...

## Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING

Call us on: 01384 273586  
or 07947 879403 or visit  
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## GARDENS TIDIED FROM £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## JEZ'S GARDEN SERVICES

Lawns cut, Borders,  
Garden clearances  
Trees lopped and shaped  
Fencing, Slabbing...  
Please call: 01384 481450  
or 07535 895270

## gas fitting

**NEW BOILERS** Hobs, cookers &  
fires fit and gas. L-Ord certs / gas  
leaks 07954 543041 01384 825556

## house clearances

**ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED**  
FULL OR PART  
GARGAES/ SHEDS,  
RUBBISH REMOVED  
WASTE LICENCE  
01384 486456 /  
07711661135

need to sell your house?

we pay 100% of purchase price  
we also buy land

Call Sterling  
Property

0800 0321718 or 01902 628059

Any area  
Fast sale

Call: 0121 601 9791



**ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**HOUSEHOLD CLEARANCES** All clearances performed with minimum fuss, maximum care. Call Kieran for a no obligation quote. 07742926350

**painters / decorators**

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator  
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

**plastering**

AAA Plastering, Rendering & property maintenance. All work guaranteed. 07526 593701 07935 519058

**plumbing & heating**

**Midland Energy Solutions**  
All plumbing, heating and gas work.  
Call Luke on 01902 488770 07584 062483

**removals**

**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS**  
Local Careful Firm Full or Part loads  
Call Don: 0800 587 0377 or 07749 941319

**ABLE REMOVALS**  
Local & Distance Domestic & Commercial Competitive Prices: Moves from only £99  
Call 07870 341089

**A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
Single items, Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES  
We take the stress away 40 years experience  
07966 281957

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN** Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/Full House. 1 item. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

**CALL IAN**, Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN**, Removals, clearances, items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

**rendering**

**QUICK RESPONSE RENDERING** professional, reliable service. Call Stuart anytime, 01902 324727.

**roofing**

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**PREMIER ROOFING** all aspects. 0121 532 7601 / 07875 387445. www.roofwestmidlands.com

**skip hire**

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!** No Skips, we load fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 6JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

**upvc windows**

**CENTRAL WINDOWS** Ltd windows, doors, replacement units 01785 472021 centralwindowsltd.co.uk

**4 Pets & Animals**

**equestrian corner**

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

**PONY HORSE BOX** trailer, takes two ponies, twin axle, lightweight, rubber matting, as new all aluminium, £525. 07761 379384.

**SET OF DRIVING** Harness, 13.2 to 14.2, as new. £100. 07761 379384.

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**PEUGEOT 207 1.4**, 2010, metallic silver, 5dr, MOT Nov, genuine 59k, 2 owners from new, very good condition, £2,750 ono. 07534 682700.

**ROVER 216 COUPE GTI**  
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**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI**  
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**FORD PANDA**, petrol, 58 reg, silver, MOT, 1 lady owner from new, 59,233 miles, serviced regularly, 1,700. 01902 721484.

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate 1.2**, 2008, 25k, Dealer fish, MOT Sept, tinted rear windows, excellent condition, £3,100 ono. 07548 511612.

**FORD FOCUS** 2005, 6 months MOT, 54,000 miles, new tyres all round, pale blue, £2,295. 07894 955710.

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**BMW 316 COMPACT** automatic, 82,000 miles, FSH, silver, MOT August, £895 ono. 0121 550 7142.

**CHEVROLET TACUMA SX**, 55 Reg., 1.6 petrol, 61,000 miles from new, fish, 7 months MOT, £725. 075 626073.

**FIAT SEICENTO**, 01, blue, full MOT, one lady owner from new, 61k, cheap to run, £725 ono. 07595 120852.

**FORD FIESTA** 2006, 12 months MOT, E/W, RCL, Service history, excellent condition, inside and out. £995. 07908 248630.

**FORD FIESTA LX** 2004, 3-dr, MOT till March 2016, air bags, E/W, AC, one previous owner, £1,400. 01902 655586.

**FORD KA 1.3**, 02 reg, 4 months MOT, 60,000 miles, £450 ono. 01902 620640.

**FORD KA (1.3)** 37k miles, full MOT, 02 Reg, burgundy, CD, Excellent clean condition throughout, lady owner. £950 ono. 01902564264.

**FORD MONDEO 1.8**, 54 reg, 80k, 12 months MOT, E/W, CD, alloys, 3 owners, £1,195 ono. 01902 496811.

**FORD MONDEO ESTATE** 2.0, 2001, 110,000 miles, Offers. 07850 743418.

**FORD MONDEO Ghia X**, W reg, automatic, 107,000 miles, exceptional condition, first to see will buy. £900 ono. Call 07793 040262.

**FORD STREET KA**, 05, grey, convertible, 12 months MOT, leather seats, e/w, a/c. Excellent condition. £1,275 ono. 07831 232257.

**HONDA CIVIC** 1.5 petrol, no MOT, spares or repair, car been off road for 2 years. £300 ono. 01902 593914 or 07775 780425.

**NISSAN ALEMERIO TINO MPV**, long MOT, 02, FSH, 70k, Superb condition, £750 ono. 01384 440258 or 07935 337167.

**NISSAN PRIMERA 2.0 Sport** Saloon, Sept 01, black, 49k, Nissan SH, immaculate car in excellent condition. £1,450. 01562 735457.

**NISSAN PRIMERA ACTIVE**, 51 plate, less than 56,000 miles, MOT January 2016, £750. o.n.o. 07758 423527.

**RENAULT CLIO 03**, 1.5DCI, 60mpg, silver, 2-dr, £30 tax, tidy inside/out, alloys, stereo, MOT, 12/11/10, Wombourne 07713 480661.

**RENAULT CLIO 1.5DCI**, 04, red, MOT, alloys, CD, leather/suede interior, £2k tax, tinted windows, £550 ono. 07543 405864.

**RENAULT SCENIC DCI** Diesel, 2004, 12 months MOT, £950 o.n.o. 01902 663591.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8**, 2002, MOT July 2015, new cam belt, good condition, average mileage, £525. 01902 685549.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA MERIT 1.4**, P reg, 95k, MOT till April 2016, good runner, £260. 01902 753125 or 07805 455602.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0**, blue, 04 plate, 92k, 7 months MOT, ideal first car, Very good condition, £750 ono. Telephone 07971 890520.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 5dr** hatch, blue, 03 reg, petrol, 90,000 miles, FSH, 7 months MOT, Excellent condition, £950 ono. 07910 95426.

**VW BEETLE** 2.0, 2000, immaculate condition, blue, 10 months MOT, as new alternator and battery, £1,100. Telephone 07894 059485.

**VW Lupo** 1.4 petrol, December 01, 73k, very good condition, MOT October, £1,400 o.n.o. 07870 720278.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA** hatchback Exclusive, (58), prime condition. Service record, MOT Oct. Mature owner, £2,200. 01902 760739.

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 MPV**, 7 seater, 07 reg, 67,000 miles, full MOT, £1,995. Telephone 07908 248630.

**VW BEETLE** new shape, 2000, full MOT, alloys, leather interior, heated seats, sun roof, air con, tinted windows, £1,495. 07754 557861.

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## Long's reign comes to an end for the Tivs

OUTGOING Tivdale boss Ian Long says he is devastated at leaving the Beeches but admitted he and his coaching staff were left with little choice.

Long's two-year stint with the club will come to an end after they attempt to defend their JW Hunt title against Stone Old Alleynians at Molineux next Thursday.

And the former-Tipton Town manager revealed the budget deficit was the ultimate reason behind his resignation. Long said: "First things first, the club comes first, and they approached us explaining that the club were in financial trouble. We learned that the playing budget would be cut in half.

"That is simply not a competitive budget at this level. We managed to finish eighth in our first season in the Evo-Stik Division One South – with the smallest budget.

"But I'm gutted, the whole coaching staff (who all resigned alongside Long) are devastated, leaving was the last thing we wanted to do. The players have done an absolutely superb job this season, proven themselves at this level and for them to take an even further significant playing cut would be unacceptable – I just couldn't bring myself to do that."

The boss, affectionately known as 'Pee Wee' by his players, said his tenure has been far from dull. "It's been a busy two years," he said.

"I've never experienced anything like the spirit, relationship and togetherness here, in my whole time in football. None of them are here for the money, they could've gone last season for higher offers."

## Truck hire drives in to rescue Neale

CRADLEY reserve Michael Neale has seen his season saved by Rochdale van rental company Rentruck.

Neale, who has enjoyed a promising start to the campaign with the Heathens, was hit by a major problem with his own transport recently, with the cost of repairs for a breakdown putting his campaign in jeopardy.

He said: "I noticed the van was getting hot driving to Kent. Unfortunately by the time I realised, I'd cooked the engine, blown the head gasket and probably warped the head!

"I'm really grateful to Rentruck for stepping in to help me out. I was worrying what I was going to do and this is a major weight off my mind.

"I'm enjoying my riding but off track issues really can mess with your head!"

# Stourbridge fall to Bridgnorth

**Bridgnorth CC 1st XI 262 (50 overs) Stourbridge 1st XI 139 (42 overs) (Bridgnorth win)**

DESPITE the lack of early season form the Memorial Ground outfit introduced 14-year-old Zain Ul Hassan a County Academy prospect to their first team.

Winning the toss, skipper Matt Bradley put the opposition in bringing instant success. Jitesh Jivan-Patel taking the wicket of Karl Quiney caught behind for a duck.

Stour's success was ruined by a brilliant knock from the skipper James Ralph. Ralph and Ryan Lockley took the Bridgnorth score from 5 to 59 in the 15th over. It was left to the young debutant Hassan

to break the budding partnership tempting Lockley to cut a ball into the hands of standing keeper Greg Jones for 16 off 41 balls.

At the half way stage the home side had progressed to 106-2. Ralph continued to punish Stour bowlers until he fell victim to a boundary catch off the bowling of Jivan-Patel for 97 off 91 balls that included 11 fours and four sixes. Bridgnorth were well placed on 156-3 with 16 overs remaining.

The momentum continued through numbers four and five Simon Gregory and David Exall respectively. The ruthless Exall piled on the agony taking 43 off 29 balls with three sixes two of which flew straight landing in the nearby super store car park.

He was out to a smart running catch at long on by Alex Bingham off the Leggie Audy Alexander.

Simon Gregory (73) was out, caught off Matt Bradley after his job was done. Ian Gregory was not out on 19 with Thomas Weaver on seven as flurry of wickets fell for quick runs. Debutant Hassan finished with the figures of 6 overs 1 wicket for 34 runs.

Stour needing a solid start saw opener Alex Bingham caught behind for two.

Steve Game and the determined Richard Bradley offered some hope to the visitors taking the score to 71 off the 15 overs.

**Stourbridge 2nd XI 206 (50 overs) Dorridge 210 (48 overs) Dorridge win.**

# Villa fans breathe huge sigh of relief

**Villa 1 West Ham 0  
LEE Mason's final whistle at Villa Park on Saturday prompted 36,000 home supporters to let out one big collective and deafening sigh of relief.**

Their team, with three wins in their last four games, are now within touching distance of Premier League safety – an achievement most would have barely dared to think possible at points in this, often tortuous, campaign.

On another weekend when the battle to survive took further twists, Villa held their nerve to ensure destiny remains very much in their hands.

Now just one victory from their final two matches, either away to Southampton on Saturday or at home to Burnley a week on Sunday, will be sufficient to confirm top flight status.

Even a pair of defeats would require Hull City to record improbable results in their final two fixtures for Villa to drop.

Tim Sherwood will rightly take most of the credit for the turnaround he has produced in just three short months at the helm.

### Grimaced

But who would have picked Tom Cleverley to be one of the other main heroes? The on-loan Manchester United midfielder, who grimaced his way through the opening six months of the season, netted his third goal in as many games and for the second successive week was Villa's match-winner.

His 31st minute strike earned a victory which, while more than deserved, could never quite be described as comfortable considering what was at stake.

Sherwood's post-match talk of an England recall for the midfielder seemed premature – but only slightly. Cleverley was a thorn in the Hammers' side all afternoon, full of energy and desire. Twice he forced visiting keeper Adrian into smart saves and looked eager to break into the box whenever the chance arose.

Together with Delph, he helped Villa dominate the opening half.

The pressure made an opener for the hosts feel inevitable Cleverley side-footed home.

## Terrific triple trophy triumph



**Stourbridge Rugby Club coaches and junior players celebrate their impressive trophy hat-trick**

YOUNG Stourbridge Rugby Club players have won a triple trophy haul at an international show-down.

The club's under-nines, 10s and 11s were unbeaten champions at the International Mini-Rugby Series, held at the Chichester High School for Boys.

Teams from the UK and France were involved in the two-day tournament.

Stourbridge RFC mini and junior section vice-chairman and U-9s coach Tom Skinner said: "I felt the boys got their reward for all their dedication and efforts throughout the season.

"We witnessed some outstanding rugby played in the right spirit. All the teams showed a solid defence and attacking maturity above their years.

"They can all enjoy the summer

and look forward to next season with real optimism."

Stourbridge's players mixed miserly defence with powerful attacking play to claim their victories, all three teams remaining undefeated.

Skinner added: "Sportsmanship was evident. One thing that was really pleasing to see was our different age-groups all supporting each other."

## Captain on a duck but Hales win through

SKIPPER Faisal Shahid was in a jubilant mood after leading Halesowen to their first win of the season over Old Elizabethans at the weekend – despite his own batting disappointment.

Shahid suffered a duck in only the second ball of the Halesowen innings – but the rest of his team rallied well to bounce back from two successive defeats.

He said: "Batting was very awkward at the start and it was definitely a toss to win."

Halesowen were wobbling at 30-3 early on, but the innings was steadied by Zain Shahid (29) and Will Barrett (45).

The fall of Shahid's wicket with the score on 75-4 sent Wes Griffiths in to join Barrett who then fell to an excellent catch on the deep square leg boundary, by Booth off the bowling of OE's South African overseas star Johann Smit, just when he was threatening to run riot.

Griffiths was then joined at the wicket by 15 year old Juhar Johal and took on the senior role in their partnership of 66 with some fine hitting until he too was caught in the deep by Booth for 44 this time off the bowling of Bastable.

The star of the show, however, was Johal who made an unbeaten half century in good time in only his second appearance for the first XI. His 54 not out, assisted by Dan Jeavons (22 no) enabled Halesowen to set a very respectable 232-6 from their allotted 50 overs.

Taking the field Dan Jeavons struck early to remove South African Smit for just 4 with the score at 16-1. Boyle and Major then put on 60 for the second wicket before Major fell to Zain Shahid for 26.

## Support Pulis on transfers, says Joleon

JOLEON LESCOTT hopes Tony Pulis will be backed in the transfer market this summer to help Albion push on next season.

The Baggies' Premier League safety was confirmed by Saturday's 1-1 draw at Newcastle.

Lescott admits they must now aim higher after a season spent battling against the drop and hopes the head coach will be able to bring in the targets he wants to improve the squad.

"We want to progress," said the centre-back. "That is the aim for every team in the Premier League, no matter what you have achieved or what you haven't achieved, you want to progress and we are no different.

"I'm sure the manager has ideas for next season and hopefully the club back him and we can progress."

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## A clash of the titans for charity

STOURBRIDGE rugby club's amateur sides bring the curtain down on this season as they compete for bragging rights this Friday.

The 'Clash of the Titans' trophy is up for grabs but more importantly they hope to raise funds for charity.

Stourbridge Lions 2nds(The Greyhounds) and Lions 3rds(The Grasshoppers) will take to the first team pitch on May 15 to raise vital funds for Cystic Fibrosis.

The charity was chosen after Lions physio Will James daughter Matilda was diagnosed with the condition when just two weeks old.

"All of a sudden we had a dozen new routines to implement and our daughter had several new medications to take every day, in addition to twice daily physiotherapy sessions. It was overwhelming and terrifying in equal measure," said Mr James.

"I cannot overemphasise how grateful we are that this wonderful rugby club have chosen them as the beneficiary of this season's Clash of the Titans.

"I have spent over six years looking after the Stourbridge rugby players. Now they are looking after me and I can't thank them enough."

The Grasshoppers will be looking to inflict a rare defeat on their opponents, who finished second in their first season in the North Midlands Reserve League Division 3.

Both teams will wear their new, sponsored kits with all proceeds split between the charity and the club development fund.

The fun starts at 7pm. Admission is £5 for adults.

For more information contact 01384 395000 or John Slim on 07989 786913.

## Nicholls comes in as winner of 10k run in under 35mins

THE DK 10k road race, which had more than 640 finishers, saw Wolverhampton's Phil Nicholls an winner, but Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers runners where well-placed with Ian Mansell third in 34.51.

Dave Nation had a good run for eighth with 35.20, as under-17 Elliot Jones came in an excellent 23rd in 38.01. Darrell Bodin was 52nd in 40.57, another under-17 Ashleigh Bently 55th in 41.02 and Stacey Skitt finished 139th in 45.55.

With track season under way Dash athletes have been busy in numerous track leagues, with Ben Tuka-Noka getting of to a winning start in the UKA under-20 age group league, winning the 100m in 11.0 and then joining Ryan Lowe, Jamal Chambers and Kundai Matukwa to set a club record for the 4 x 100 relay.

The senior team in the midland league saw Richard Woodhall win all four throwing events as Joe Smith taking the same B events. Emily Horne took the 100, 200 and the Long Jump. Emma Douras won the 100 hurdles, Natalie Stinton the 400 hurdles and Emma Goulding the triple jump.

## Perks to battle on through injury

CRADLEY ace Ellis Perks has vowed to race on – despite suffering with a knee injury.

Perks has revealed the full extent of the damage, but insists he's no quitter and wants to help the Heathens push for a third straight league title.

Despite remaining far from fully fit, Perks is hoping his time on the sidelines means his knee will be able to withstand the rest of the season.

Having made the lengthy trip from Australia for his first full season in British racing, Perks is determined to ensure injury does not derail his campaign.

### Speedway

And with Cradley chasing an unprecedented third successive National League title, he will continue to fight on in pursuit of glory.

Said Perks: "When I was riding over here towards the end of last season I had a crash and ruptured two ligaments in my left knee.

"I gave them as long as I could to heal, but when I had a couple of incidents riding for Cradley at Perry Barr and then at Kent it upset it again.

"I decided to take a couple of weeks off to try

and let it heal a bit so it won't affect me too much and I can get back to top form again.

"We've got a really good chance of winning the title this season, so I'd rather try and push through the pain barrier to make sure we go all the way.

"It's not ideal, but I want to keep on going and try and help Cradley win the title again.

"I feel much better after having a bit of a break, so hopefully I can come back and starting scoring loads of points again at reserve.

"I've had some really good meetings for Cradley so far, so I hope I can have more of the same over the rest of the season."

# SAM SLUGS HIS WAY TO TITLE

**STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington smashed through a Ghanaian blockade to claim his first major domestic by stoppage on the big stage.**

Millions watched live on Sky Sports as 'the Savage' lifted the Commonwealth welterweight title with an impressive seventh round TKO at the weekend.

But, while great heavyweight hope Anthony Joshua encountered little resistance as he knocked out Raphael Zumbano Love in the second round on the same bill, Eggington had to work hard.

The punch of the night, a right hand out of nowhere, flattened Love and sent us all home early.

Earlier, national champion Joseph Lamptey took a licking from Eggington but kept on kicking at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, before referee Michael Alexander took action for him.

There wasn't much in the way of defences from the off in a give-one-to-take one slugfest, but Eggington's blows soon started to take effect. Typically, Eggington had tasted a combination of hooks in the third round when he answered back with a hammer of a right, forcing Lamptey onto the back foot.

### Aggressor

It settled Eggington into the role of the aggressor from the fourth as he took the centre of the ring and picked his shots, his right hooks often landing flush.

He tested his jaw with the same loaded shot in the fifth and continued to tee off, with Lamptey hurt and looking to take a breather.

He managed to stay out in the trouble during the sixth until near to the bell to signal the end of the session, when he was reminded of the danger with combination punches.

But there was no escape with 55 seconds left of the seventh as Eggington trapped him in the ropes and let rip, as Lamptey tried to cover up in vain.

A right hook bang on the button as they traded forced Alexander to step in, with Lamptey in real danger despite his protests.

The belt went to Eggington as he claimed the Commonwealth strap defended his WBC Interna-



Sam Eggington lands a punch on Joseph Lamptey during the title match-up

tional Silver crown for the first time. The 21-year-old's legend is growing 17 fights into his journey as a professional and he's looking at getting his hands on the British title next.

There was healthy West Midlands representation on the under-card, on a night to remember for prospects Lennox Clarke and Daniel Breeze.

Clarke saw his six-rounder against the experienced Alistair Warren drop to four, but performed well before the show went on air. The 23-year-old super middleweight was competing on camera three years after taking up the sport.

Clarke bombed out of his corner and bossed proceedings targeting the body and head, War-

ren marked around the ribcage from his attacks. There was little of note to come from the third, as Warren looked to hold. He got caught with a club of a right hook during the last session, but survived.

Referee Kevin Parker had it to Clarke 39-38 on points, handing him his eighth straight pro win. It was hard to see where Warren's round came from.

Welterweight Breeze, from Bloxwich, was another propelled to the top table with promoters Matchroom, at just 19 in his fourth paid contest. Stourbridge's Kevin McCauley was drafted to replace Dee Mitchell at late notice.

## Old Hales grab North Mids Cup

**Old Halesonians 52 Whitchurch 6**

OLD HALESONIANS won the North Midlands Cup for the first time in their history with a crushing 52-6 win over past winners Whitchurch in the final at Dudley Kingswinford.

Old Hales won the North Midlands Shield eight years ago in Gary Cox's first season as their director of rugby and they delivered the former Moseley hooker the senior trophy in their first appearance in the cup final.

As the higher-ranked club Old Hales started as firm pre-match favourites and they justified that by running in eight tries, three of them scored by pacy right wing Luke Smith.

"It's a big moment for the club, it's our first senior cup final, we won the Shield when I first came eight years ago so this is a proud moment," Cox said.

"I'm pleased that we put them to the sword and we didn't win 10-9 like some of the other finals.

Smith's first try was the middle of three scored by Old Halesonians in a nine minute period just before half time with his fellow wing Warren Oliver also getting in on the act.

Matt Davies pulled back three points for Whitchurch with another penalty just before half time but Oliver and back row forward Loz Breeze crossed in the opening minutes of the second half to put the game beyond doubt.

Smith went over for his second from a short side move and brought up Old Halesonians' half century when he went over from long range to complete his hat-trick.

Bridgnorth completed a hat-trick of wins in the North Midlands Shield by holding off Kidderminster Carolians' challenge to clinch an 18-13 win.

## Villa expecting to sell last of tickets

VILLA expect eager fans to snap up the last of the club's 25,000 FA Cup Final tickets this week.

The club has announced the last of its Wembley allocation for the May 30 clash with Arsenal is expected to sell out as the latest tier of sales reaches supporters with a booking history of attending seven or more matches this season.

They will be available from the club's ticket office at Villa Park, online, via the telephone hotline but will not be for sale at the club's store in Birmingham city centre.

Villa will make a further announcement if there are any tickets remaining at the end of Wednesday's sales window.

★★★

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